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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

92nd plenary meeting
Friday, 6 June 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Picco (Monaco), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 10 (*continued*)

Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS

Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/825)

Mr. Escalante Hasbún (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): El Salvador would first like to thank the President for his initiative in convening this meeting on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (resolution S-26/2) and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS (resolutions 60/262, annex, and 65/277, annex).

Our country recognizes the efforts of the entire United Nations system to put an end to that pandemic and reaffirms its strong commitment to the response to HIV, always taking into account the health of the population and the achievement of the proposed goals for 2015 of zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination. In January 2014, El Salvador again joined the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a member country of Latin America and the Caribbean, and, together with Brazil and Guyana, is representing the region in that global coordinating forum for the period 2014 to 2016.

The epidemic in El Salvador is classified as a concentrated epidemic, in accordance with the agreements established by UNAIDS, with men who have sex with men, female sex workers and transgender people comprising the most vulnerable populations. Out of those three groups, studies have established that the transgender population is the most stigmatized and discriminated against and suffers from the greatest violations of their human rights. That exclusion is a barrier to their access to the various prevention, assistance and care services, and makes them more likely to use alcohol and drugs. We thank the Secretary-General for recognizing in his report (A/68/825) the connections between combatting violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and an effective response to the HIV pandemic.

The most recent epidemiological data show that, between 2007 and 2013, the diagnosis of new cases in my country decreased from six to four cases daily. The number of tests taken as a result of the national day of HIV testing has increased yearly and, in 2013, it surpassed 200 per cent of the tests taken in 2007 and 2008. That trend represents the ever increasing efforts undertaken with regard to logistics, planning and laboratories by all actors involved. It is important to note that the increase in HIV testing has been accompanied by a decrease in the rate of the rate of new infections, which demonstrates its impact on prevention.

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With regard to communication and prevention, El Salvador has produced the only television programme specializing in HIV in Latin America. It is transmitted on a totally free basis via 10 national channels. It also has an ongoing campaign for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV and congenital syphilis transmission, which has helped to avoid an increase in HIV infections among children for the past 13 years. For El Salvador, prevention is of great importance, as it continues to raise the awareness of the personnel of the national health system, the justice sector and others about topics of general information on HIV and ways to promote prevention, to avoid stigmatization and discrimination and to strengthen of the rights of people with HIV.

With regard to hospital care at the national level, 20 hospitals have comprehensive services for people with HIV, which provide antiretroviral therapy and are implementing the models of care of the World Health Organization (WHO). Three hospitals are also being retrofitted to reduce infections in the hospitals. In the next two years, six more hospitals will be retrofitted.

For some years now in El Salvador, studies to measure AIDS spending have been carried out in the national AIDS spending assessment. The most recent assessment carried out in 2013 recorded an expenditure of $62,305,782. A further measure of progress is the conclusion of training for the new law for the prevention and control of HIV, which was the discussed with all sectors of Salvadorian society. We hope that it will be submitted to the legislative Assembly this year.

In April, El Salvador represented Central America and the Dominican Republic in discussions with Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Mexico on estimates of the regional goals based on the comprehensive reports that El Salvador has duly submitted to UNAIDS and the WHO in the past few years. After the first estimate of goals, consultations were held at the end of April with all the member countries of the subregion of Mesoamerica, which includes the Dominican Republic; in the last week of May, we held discussions with all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to reach a consensus. Those goals, which we call 90-90-90, will be brought, on behalf of the region, to the meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in the first week of July in Geneva.

El Salvador has also been notified by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with regard to the allocation of $37.8 million dollars over the next three years for the new financing model, which is a result of building the vision of the country in its national response to HIV and the active participation of the different sectors with which we have an ongoing dialogue.

As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, while we have achieved historic advances in the response to HIV, that progress is not universal. New infections have continued to increase in many countries, in particular among key populations. We welcome again the issuance of that report.

Given the implications of this pandemic, which remains an urgent global challenge in the fields of health, development and human rights, El Salvador believes it is of utmost importance to avoid in forums such as this one the politicization of technical and evidence-based aspects, such as those in the report of the Secretary-General. We hope that the draft decision, which we had hoped would be adopted today, will be adopted by consensus as soon as possible so that we may pursue our joint work, including in the preparations for a new review of the commitments in 2016, according to the practice of five-year cycles, which already exist on this subject.

Ms. Dixon (Bahamas): I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and to reaffirm the Bahamas' commitment in striving towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2015 and beyond.

The Bahamas aligns itself with the statement delivered this morning by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (see A/68/PV.91). It reaffirms its solidarity with the sister countries of the Community and the strengthening of our collective efforts to realize a region free of HIV and AIDS. We thank the Secretary-General for his report, entitled "Towards ending the AIDS epidemic: meeting the 2015 targets and planning for the post-2015 era" (A/68/825).

When the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was launched nearly 20 years ago, its first journey was an ambitious one, namely, to strengthen the way that the United Nations was responding to AIDS. There are many obstacles to overcome and many victories that have been won. As we move towards the ultimate goal of a generation free of AIDS, there are clear gains in the reduction of new HIV infections, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and coverage with life-saving

antiretroviral medications, as well as the many other targets of the Millennium Development Goals. The key to sustained and exponential progress will however be dependent upon our ongoing commitment, dedication and best efforts to care for those living with HIV, while fighting for human rights for all and an end to stigma, discrimination and social injustice.

The National AIDS Programme of the Bahamas has been monitoring the epidemic for the past 30 years. Since 2002, the number of newly reported HIV infections in the Bahamas has continued to decline, in keeping with the Caribbean region. That decline has been achieved through adherence to the UNAIDS principles of the "Three Ones", which represent one AIDS action framework, one coordinating authority and one monitoring and evaluation framework. The primary focus has always been on the prevention of the transmission of HIV, with an integrated approach to prevention, care, treatment and support. Early testing and entry into care have been hallmarks of our Programme and are now transitioning to provider-initiated testing and counselling. Targeted prevention messages and community outreach events that offer free HIV testing continue to be strong components of the prevention programme.

The prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme in the Bahamas has been recognized internationally as a best practice and has resulted in an almost total elimination of vertical HIV infections. Between 2003 and 2013 in the Bahamas, no child was born infected with HIV when the HIV-infected mothers had received and adhered to the appropriate antiretroviral treatment. There were only two cases of mother-to-child transmission in 2013. The antiretroviral coverage of HIV-positive pregnant women also remains high, at above 90 per cent.

The Bahamas has seen an historical reduction in maternal deaths and, due to the strengthened health-care policy and widely available antiretroviral therapy, there have been no HIV-associated maternal deaths in the past three years. At the end of 2013, approximately 60 per cent of all persons medically eligible for antiretroviral therapy were documented to be on treatment. The Bahamas also serves as a resource centre and assists neighbouring countries in the acquisition of medicine, when needed.

The Bahamas continues to make significant strides in increasing access to antiretroviral medications, decreasing new infections and reducing AIDS-related deaths overall, although, as a small island nation, it continues to face the challenge of sustainable funding. The Government of the Bahamas, for its part, continues to work assiduously to mobilize its limited domestic resources in order to reduce the number of lives affected by HIV and AIDS and to preserve the quality of life and dignity of those who are infected. The need to identify funding to support the progress of the National AIDS Programme in the fight against HIV and AIDS is recognized, particularly in the context of the desire to implement updates to treatment guidelines and the scaling-up of antiretroviral therapy.

One of the most significant challenges that the Bahamas faces is its designation as a high-income country and the resulting restriction from many international donor funds. The Bahamas therefore relies on the support and generosity of international and regional donor partners, such as UNAIDS, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief programme, and the Pan American Health Organization, to carry out the mission of the National AIDS Programme. The Government of the Bahamas thanks its donor partners for their continued support of the National AIDS Programme and the fight against HIV. We strive to maintain our current commitments, and the strategy for achieving the goals and objectives of the National AIDS Strategic Plan will require additional funds over the longer term.

The Bahamas has also been a leader in advocacy for persons infected with and affected by HIV. A strong legislative and policy environment protects against discrimination in many sectors, specifically through the revision of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act. The HIV and AIDS services have gradually been integrated over the past several years. The provision of HIV and AIDS care is integrated into the prison health-care services. Decentralization continues with the goal of integrating HIV and AIDS services into primary care throughout the archipelago.

This debate takes place at a critical moment in the history of our work in the area of HIV and AIDS, as we are rapidly approaching the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the 10 specific and time-bound targets of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (resolution 65/277, annex). As we move towards and beyond 2015, there is a need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation programmes in every country in order to ensure greater accountability towards meeting the targets set out to

eliminate HIV and to achieve an AIDS-free generation. Those strengthened programmes will bring greater clarity to the challenges that prevent us from meeting that goal. Using the data gleaned from such efforts will prevent us from duplicating our mistakes and better guide the use of our scarce resources.

The Bahamas is committed to expanding access to a continuum of care for all persons living with HIV and AIDS throughout the country's primary health-care system and to undertaking the process of charting a course for our work in the post-2015 period. For archipelagic nations such as ours, that commitment requires the duplication of services across a number of islands. Such a commitment relies on strong mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the care that is delivered in order to maintain the high quality of care necessary to improve the lives of persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

There is an urgent need for countries and stakeholders to work together to identify innovative, yet practical approaches to scaling up services in a resource-limited setting. There is a need for expanded operational research to identify best practices that will benefit the fight against HIV and AIDS. That must be supplemented by support for training and implementation to improve approaches to the management of HIV and AIDS. In order to truly make an impact on HIV and AIDS, we must also continue to strengthen our efforts to reduce the stigma and discrimination that prevents many people from being tested for HIV.

HIV and AIDS are a global scourge that requires global solutions. We cannot face it alone. Let us therefore work together to make the end of AIDS a reality for all.

Mr. Sargsyan (Armenia): On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank the President for providing us with this opportunity to hold a dialogue with other Member States on this important agenda item. My delegation welcomes the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General (A/68/825) on the progress made in implementing the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (resolution 65/277, annex). We are pleased to note that the total resources available for HIV programmes, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, continue to grow despite the ongoing economic hurdles and competing priorities.

While the recent progress and overall global trends are encouraging and the rates of new HIV infections and AIDS-related mortality have generally been declining in the world, we are concerned that they continue to increase in Eastern Europe, in particular. In that region, there is still much to be done not only in fighting the HIV epidemic but also in narrowing the treatment gap. For example, the regional antiretroviral therapy is among the lowest in the world and prevention services are not yet widely accessible to all key populations.

It is important to mention that the significant number of cases of HIV infection registered in my country is associated with the migration factor. More than half of the registered HIV cases in the country are labour migrants who were infected through heterosexual contacts outside my country. The migration restrictions in host countries related to HIV, limited access to health-care services and HIV prevention measures and information directly influence Armenia's health-care sector. Taking that into account, a study was conducted on labour migration and HIV risks in Armenia. On the basis of its results, an HIV prevention programme that targets migrants and their sexual partners has been developed.

We would like to acknowledge the continued partnership and support extended to us by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other international partners, which have helped us to significantly improve our national capacity and establish a strong national response. In that context, I would like particularly to highlight the efforts of the Government of the Russian Federation, which, along with its ongoing programme support, recently donated a sophisticated mobile clinic to provide health-care services, including for HIV, to people living in remote areas of Armenia.

As challenges in ensuring the sustainability, continuity and scaling-up of HIV diagnostics, follow-up of HIV patients, the provision of antiretrovirals and monitoring still remain, we would like to call on our partners to continue their support in line with the principle of shared responsibility and global solidarity. That will be essential for sustaining and scaling up the response in my country in the future.

As the world is getting closer to entering another phase of universal development goals and the United Nations is profoundly involved in active discussions to define the post-2015 development agenda, we should be consistent in our efforts to ensure that the AIDS response remains high on the agenda. My delegation

believes that the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's current report (A/68/825) can provide good input to discussions to formulate the agenda beyond 2015. We look forward to the General Assembly high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, which will contribute greatly to deliberations on and commitments to strategies to ensure that the vision of the global AIDS movement, zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths are realized in the coming decades.

In conclusion, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Michel Sidibé and his entire team at UNAIDS, and Mr. Michel Kazatchkine, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, for their indispensable optimistic vision and determination. They can count on our renewed commitment to mobilizing international efforts to defeat the AIDS epidemic once and for all.

Ms. Derderian (United States of America): My delegation would first like to acknowledge the continued, excellent work of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) under the leadership of Michel Sidibé. UNAIDS is a critically important partner at the headquarters, regional and country levels. We also welcome the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/825). We appreciate its recognition of the continued challenge of stigma, discrimination and punitive approaches, including the criminalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, which pose threats to providing an effective HIV response to vulnerable populations.

What a difference a decade makes. Ten years ago, AIDS was wiping out a generation of individuals in the most productive years of their lives. AIDS was for too many a death sentence. It threatened the very foundation of societies, creating millions of orphans, stalling economic development and leaving countries stuck in poverty.

Today, that picture has been transformed dramatically. Landmark scientific advances, many supported by the United States, coupled with success in implementing effective programmes, have put an AIDS-free generation within sight. The document entitled "Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-Free Generation", launched on World AIDS Day 2012, demonstrates the strong and continued commitment of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to fighting this deadly disease. As the Blueprint notes, however, no one country can do it alone. Achieving an AIDS-free generation is the shared responsibility of partner Governments, civil society, people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, the private sector, foundations, donor nations and multilateral institutions.

Last year, the United States Congress passed the bipartisan, bicameral PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013, which United States President Obama signed into law in December 2013. That law extends the critical authorities and strengthens the oversight and reporting of the PEPFAR programme, which began in 2003 under the leadership of former President George W. Bush. PEPFAR is contributing to the global target of supporting more than 6.7 million people who received life-saving HIV treatment in 2013. The vision of achieving an AIDS-free generation is no longer a distant dream. However, as the Secretary-General's report emphasizes, there is much work to be done until we have control over the epidemic.

We have delivered results by following sound science, focusing on impact, targeting efforts where the virus is most prevalent and grounding our work in approaches that protect the human rights of all people. PEPFAR is a public health programme, and the principles of good public health demand that we strive to reach all affected populations with core HIV services, prioritize high-impact, scientifically proven interventions and focus our resources where those interventions will have the greatest impact on controlling the epidemic. The United States remains committed to the global fight against HIV/AIDS. We will continue to support global efforts to ensure that the momentum to scale up high-impact HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions required to reach the Millennium Development Goals and to create an AIDS-free generation is maintained and increased.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria represents a critical vehicle for donors to contribute to shared global responsibility and support country leadership in addressing those three diseases. The United States is working with partner countries to ensure that each dollar invested achieves the greatest possible health impact. With United States support, the Global Fund is reforming the way it works to increase the impact of its investments. The United States Government and the Global Fund are also strengthening their collaboration under the leadership of partner countries in support of country-owned strategies.

Through shared responsibility and smart investments, PEPFAR is continuing its work to help create an AIDS-free generation and build upon the success of the past 10 years. Together, we can reach that ambitious but achievable goal and have a truly lasting impact on the millions of individuals, families and communities we serve. It is imperative that together we commit, maintain and increase both the momentum and the focus on HIV as one of the measurable components for global health goals beyond 2015. We look forward to the future high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS.

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 10.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations A/68/PV.93

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

93rd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 11 June 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 4

Election of the President of the General Assembly

Election of the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session

The President: In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I now invite members to proceed to the election of the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session.

May I recall that, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 33/138, of 19 December 1978, the President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session should be elected from among the African States. In that connection, I have been informed by the Chair of the Group of African States for the month of May 2014 that the Group has endorsed His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, for the presidency of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session.

Taking into account the provisions of paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa of the Republic of Uganda elected by acclamation President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session. On behalf of the Assembly, I wholeheartedly congratulate Mr. Kutesa on his election as President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session.

I now invite His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, who has just been elected President of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session, to take the floor.

Mr. Kutesa (Uganda): Almost 70 years ago, this Organization, the United Nations, was founded with the aim of, among other things, saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights and promoting social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom. It has since remained central to global efforts to find solutions to the problems that challenge humanity, through the common endeavour of all States.

Fifty-two years ago, my country, Uganda, joined the United Nations family. We are an active and fully committed Member of the Organization, and committed even more to the work of the General Assembly. I am therefore honoured and truly grateful to all here for unanimously electing me as President of the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, a sign not only of the Assembly's collective trust and confidence in me personally, but also of recognition of the contribution that Uganda has made. I would especially like to thank my region, Africa, for endorsing my candidature and for the unwavering support it has given me.

Mr. President, I thank you for your leadership and for setting the stage during the current session. A number of intergovernmental processes are ongoing, and will feed into negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. I also appreciate your willingness to facilitate transition and continuity in the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

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I would like to thank and commend the Secretary-General for his personal commitment, dedication and tireless work in advancing the agenda of the United Nations. I look forward to working with everyone on our Organization's priorities.

As we gather here today, our world continues to be confronted with various challenges of global reach and impact. They include poverty and hunger; underdeveloped education and health services; unemployment; poor and inadequate infrastructure in many developing countries; insufficient and expensive energy; climate change and rising sea-levels; armed conflicts; and emerging threats to peace and security such as transnational organized crime, terrorism, piracy and human trafficking. Collectively, we must continue to take concerted action to address those challenges. That is what has made the United Nations a strong, unique and indispensable organization.

Fourteen years ago, world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), committing to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, with a focus on socioeconomic development issues such as poverty, health and education. While significant progress has been made in some areas, it has been uneven across goals, countries and regions. As we work on a post-2015 development agenda, we must ensure that the sustainable development goals being formulated build on the foundation laid by the MDGs. It is also essential that we develop an agenda that is transformative, with the eradication of poverty and hunger and the promotion of sustained and inclusive economic growth as its overarching objectives. It should be holistic, action-oriented and universally applicable, while paying due attention to the various regional and national realities as well as levels of development.

As part of the post-2015 development agenda, we will have to address means of implementation in terms of financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building. That will require a strengthened global partnership, one that will foster partnerships between and among Governments, provide for an increased role for the private sector, ensure a fair international trading regime and foster national and foreign direct investments. Our ultimate objective should be to create a transformative agenda that supports global solutions, guides national development efforts and empowers people to improve their livelihoods and determine their own future.

Climate change, which continues largely unabated, is one of the defining global challenges of our time. Its adverse effects are evident in persistent extreme weather conditions, floods, extended droughts and rising sea levels. There can be no doubt that those effects threaten humankind's very existence. Small island States in particular are becoming increasingly vulnerable. To preserve planet Earth for ourselves and succeeding generations, we have an obligation to combat climate change, through, among other things, mitigation and adaptation measures. Climate-change financing and technology transfer will be particularly central to that cause. It is therefore important that during the sixty-ninth session we give appropriate impetus and momentum to the ongoing process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to reach a global agreement on climate change in 2015.

The coming year will be of historic significance, since it will mark the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations. Today, the world is vastly different from what it was in 1945. While the principles of the Organization remain solid, the changing world obliges us to adjust to new and changing realities. Central to that is the continued revitalization of the General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council and other relevant United Nations bodies. The intergovernmental negotiation process on Security Council reform has not yet made the desired progress. I will be working with every Member State to make further progress on this particular issue.

At the operational level, experience has shown that fostering cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations positively contributes to development and the maintenance of peace and security. We have seen many successes in many parts of the world, especially Africa, where the United Nations and various regional organizations have utilized their unique and complementary capacities to resolve conflicts. I am convinced that this cooperation has yet to reach its full potential and should be substantially strengthened. I also believe that we should strengthen cooperation and coordination among regional organizations themselves to address common challenges.

We should make greater efforts and launch more initiatives aimed at achieving the peaceful settlement of disputes, as envisaged in Article 33 of the Charter

of the United Nations. Conflict prevention is a cheaper and more sustainable option.

In post-conflict situations, we need to step up peacebuilding efforts and support countries in building effective national institutions. That is essential for avoiding relapse and for enabling those countries to move towards sustainable peace, reconstruction, economic recovery and development.

We should also strengthen our collective resolve to counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. That tension has often manifested itself in violent terrorist attacks, serving as a constant reminder of the threat of extremist ideology. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is an important initiative aimed at improving tolerance, understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions. I will support further enhancement of the Alliance's role towards that end.

I will focus on further advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the sixty-ninth session, during which we will mark the twentieth anniversary of the groundbreaking Beijing meeting that provided a framework and road map for promoting women's rights and achieving gender equality. Since 1995, the United Nations and the international community have made significant progress in advancing gender equality, but there remains a lot of work to be done.

That reminds me of the experience of one Nabanja, a married woman and mother of four children in Kashongi village in my parliamentary constituency, who acquired land with her husband in 2010. Two weeks ago, in my constituency, Nabanja told me that her husband had sold the land without her knowledge, leaving her and her children with no home or means of survival. There are several such examples the world over that put in sharp focus the need to seize this historic opportunity to galvanize action and mobilize all actors for accelerated and effective advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women under the leadership of UN-Women.

I will be sharing with the General Assembly, in due course, my proposals on how to effectively move all the aforementioned priorities forward, with its support.

I am proposing the theme for the sixty-ninth session to be "Delivering on and implementing a transformative post-2015 development agenda". The theme builds on the important work and progress being made in the current session. It underscores the need to focus not only on delivering or agreeing the post-2015 development agenda, but also, most important, on ensuring its effective implementation.

I am motivated by putting people at the centre of everything we do. I am motivated by the need for socioeconomic transformation. I look forward to working with the General Assembly to develop an agenda that will eradicate poverty and hunger and create sustained and inclusive growth, employment and better livelihoods for all.

In that endeavour, we can all draw inspiration from the words of the late President Nelson Mandela, who, in his speech at an event of the "Campaign to Make Poverty History" held in London in 2005, said,

> "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom."

We truly have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build "the future we want". Fifty-one years ago, in 1963, President John F. Kennedy in his address to the General Assembly in this Hall said,

> "Never before has man had such capacity to control his own environment: to end thirst and hunger; to conquer poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and massive human misery. We have the power to make this the best generation of mankind in the history of the world — or to make it the last." (*A/PV.1209, p. 6*)

If that was applicable to his generation 51 years ago, it is even more applicable to today's generation. The scale and reach of most of the challenges we face, coupled with the limited capacity of many of those worst affected, requires that we address them collectively. The United Nations exists to find solutions through our combined efforts.

I will endeavour to guide the work of the General Assembly in an active and effective manner. My pledge to the Assembly is my firm commitment to being accessible, transparent, fair and balanced, and I count on its support and cooperation.

The President: I thank His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, President-elect for the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Permit me now to make a statement.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Minister Kutesa on his election by acclamation as President of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

As President-elect, Mr. Kutesa brings to the role significant experience and extensive background in politics, law and the private sector. He has served as his country's Minister for Foreign Affairs since 2005, during which he has led and overseen major activities and events, including Uganda's term in the Security Council in 2009-2010. He also has over 30 years of legislative experience as an elected Member of Parliament in Uganda. Undoubtedly, those positions, among other prominent roles he has held, will serve him well as he takes on the task of being the next President of the General Assembly.

The President-elect will assume the Office at a critical time for the United Nations when Member States will begin the long and arduous process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, the end result of which must be inclusive and people-centred and must be of immense significance and importance for both the people of today and the many generations to come. As President-elect, he will be expected to guide that process throughout the sixty-ninth session so that, at the start of the next, the Member States will be well positioned to adopt a new global development framework that is ambitious, focused and leads to meaningful change.

With his election by acclamation today, Member States have bestowed on him the initial trust that is necessary to commence that mammoth task.

Over the next three months, my team and I will continue to set the stage for the new agenda, including by convening a two-day high-level stocktaking event on 8 and 9 September. That event will enable Member States and other stakeholders to share their views on inputs to the Secretary-General's synthesis report, which will form the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, I wish to affirm that in the period leading up to the formal assumption of this Office by President-elect Kutesa on 16 September, my team and I are available for any support required and offer our full cooperation. We will continue to work with his team so as to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

Once again, I congratulate and welcome President-elect Kutesa and wish him every success as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I congratulate His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa on his election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session

As a lawyer, parliamentarian, Finance Minister and Foreign Minister, Mr. Kutesa brings wide-ranging experience to the job. I wish him every success as he takes up his important responsibilities.

The position of President of the General Assembly demands a variety of skills. I saw that for myself when I served as Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. One must be able to build bridges among all Member States, not just the most powerful ones. One needs patience, since negotiations and consultations can take time. At times, one serves as a quiet guide, a messenger and a seeker of consensus. At all times, the President of the General Assembly is guided above all by the values, principles and obligations of the Charter of the United Nations, whose seventieth anniversary will be celebrated during Mr. Kutesa's term.

Those many roles will be especially important during the upcoming session of the Assembly, when many critical streams of work will converge and reach the moment of truth. Our efforts to accelerate our work for the Millennium Development Goals will enter the home stretch. Discussions by Member States on the period beyond 2015 will move towards what we hope will be an inspiring yet practical vision and a concise set of goals that reflect the many voices we have heard and will lay out the path for a new and transformative sustainable development agenda. On the grave overarching challenge of climate change, the Climate Summit on 23 September and the Conference of the Parties in Lima in December will be key moments to mobilize solutions on the ground and the ambition for a new global agreement next year.

The Assembly will also be called on to address other key concerns, including disarmament, humanitarian assistance, the special needs of Africa and the participation of the world's young people. Mr. Kutesa will focus on strengthening the United Nations itself. We must continue our efforts to end all

forms of discrimination and to ensure that each and every member of the human family can enjoy their fundamental human rights.

The sixty-ninth session will be a period of great consequence for the well-being and shared fate of people and the planet. I look forward to working with the new President of the Assembly and with all Member States to do our part to end extreme poverty and to set the world on a peaceful, just and sustainable path.

Let us work together to maintain high ambition and to meet the expectations of the billions of people across the globe who look to the Assembly, this house of all nations, for dialogue, decisions and action to bring about the world that we want and a life of dignity for all.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Gambia, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Tangara (Gambia): For Africa, the importance of the sixty-ninth session cannot be overemphasized, particularly as Africa assumes the presidency to chart the waters of the development agenda for 2015 and beyond. On behalf of the African Group, we would like to congratulate the current President of the General Assembly for his talented leadership as we move towards the conclusion of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and pledge our continuous support for all his efforts for a seamless transition towards the sixty-ninth session.

Africa's accession to the presidency means for us, Africa, a sense of duty to contribute to the service of our global community of nations. The African Group will continue to work with the other groups in the spirit of mutual respect, compromise and consensus-building.

On behalf of the Group, we once again congratulate Sam Kutesa, who is an accomplished statesman.

(*spoke in French*)

We have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kutesa as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda and we know his capability, the sense of good work done that characterizes him and his wisdom, since he guided us when we had a very young Minister for Foreign Affairs and the presence of Mr. Kutesa was greatly appreciated. We are convinced that the opportunity provided to him today will allow him to sow the seeds of enlightenment to illuminate the work of all who wish to strive for a better world living in harmony and without conflict.

(*spoke in English*)

We wish him success and have no doubt that he will live up to expectation. He has the support of Africa and, I believe, of all our colleagues present here.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Ms. Čolaković (Bosnia and Herzegovina): On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, it is an honour to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, on his election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. Mr. Kutesa takes over the helm of the General Assembly at a time when the world is continuing to face various global challenges and when the role of the General Assembly is becoming invaluable in finding comprehensive solutions to the increasing number of world issues.

The President-elect brings to his position extensive parliamentary and diplomatic experience. We hope that Mr. Kutesa will continue to lead the General Assembly successfully towards the promotion of peace and security and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, while working together with the States Members of the United Nations to define a sustainable development agenda beyond 2015.

The incoming President takes over from His Excellency Mr. John Ashe, who has been successful in leading this body during the past year. On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, I would like to express our deepest respect and gratitude to President Ashe for all his efforts and impressive action during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the issues that concern the nations of the world. We are confident that his extensive engagement with the United Nations system will continue in the coming years. We especially want to emphasize, and thank President Ashe for, his invaluable contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and setting the stage for the post-2015 era, as well as his efforts to advance the revitalization of the General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council.

On behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, I would like to pledge our full support to the President-

elect during his tenure and to wish him every success in carrying out his duties during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

In conclusion, with regard to yesterday's terrorist act of the kidnapping at the Consul General of Turkey and diplomatic officers in Mosul, the members of the Group of Eastern European States reaffirm that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is criminal and unjustifiable regardless of its motivation and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever it is committed and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I have the honour to address the General Assembly today on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States. On behalf of the Group, I would like to extend our congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, Foreign Minister of Uganda, on his election to this important position. We trust that he will serve well the collective good of the General Assembly.

We look forward to working with the President-elect during the sixty-ninth session. That will be an important year for the General Assembly as we work towards agreement on a new and transformative international development agenda. We welcome the priority that he has promised to give to the issue. Collectively we must ensure that the new agenda puts the world firmly on a path to end extreme poverty through successful sustainable development and to advance the protection, promotion and realization of human rights for all people, without discrimination or distinction of any kind or for any reason. We look to the President-elect to support and guide that collective endeavour throughout his term in office.

We would also like to express our Group's appreciation for the leadership of the outgoing President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. John Ashe. We are particularly grateful for his tireless efforts to promote dialogue and mutual understanding among Member States on the different aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

On behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, I wish the President and the President-elect every success in their important work.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the United Arab Emirates, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mrs. Nusseibeh (United Arab Emirates): On behalf of the Member States of the Group of Asia-Pacific States, for which the United Arab Emirates has assumed chairmanship today, it is an honour to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, on his election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

We also take this opportunity as a Group to thank His Excellency Mr. John Ashe, who has very ably led the General Assembly during the past year and who will no doubt continue to do so in the few months ahead.

The Member States of the Group remain committed to actively working alongside the Office of the President of the General Assembly. We offer our support to his ambitious and important agenda, which he has just outlined for us today. We wish him every success in this important role at this critical time in the world.

Drawing of lots for the seating protocol for the sixty-ninth regular session

The President: As mentioned in the *Journal of the United Nations*, we will now proceed to the drawing of lots to determine the Member State that will occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall at the sixty-ninth session. In accordance with the established practice, the Secretary-General draws the name of one Member State from a box containing the names of the Member States of the General Assembly. The delegation whose name is drawn will occupy the first seat of the General Assembly Hall, and the other countries will follow in the English alphabetical order. The same order will be observed in the Main Committees.

I now invite the Secretary-General to proceed with the drawing of lots.

Having been drawn by a lot by the Secretary-General, Cuba was chosen to occupy the first seat in the General Assembly Hall at the sixty-ninth session.

I thank the Secretary-General for the drawing of the lots.

Agenda item 6

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session

The President: I should now like to consult members with the view to proceeding to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at the sixty-ninth session.

In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

> "The Vice-Presidents shall be elected after the election of the Chairmen of the six Main Committees, referred to in rule 98, in such as way as to ensure the representative character of the General Committee."

It is my understanding that, since the elections of the Chairpersons of the Main Committees will conform with decision 68/505, of 1 October 2013, on the "Interim arrangement on the pattern for the rotation of the chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly", it will not have an impact on the geographical distribution of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly and the representative character of the General Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly therefore agrees to proceed to elect the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we shall now proceed to the election of the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session.

All members of the General Assembly are eligible in this election, except the delegation already represented in the General Committee, namely, Uganda, the country whose representative has just been elected to the presidency of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session.

In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the annex to resolution 33/138, of 19 December 1978, the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session shall be elected according to the following pattern: five representatives from African States, five representatives from Asia-Pacific States, one representative from Eastern European States, three representatives from Latin American and Caribbean States, two representatives from Western European and other States and five representatives from the permanent members of the Security Council.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled.

We shall proceed accordingly.

I shall now read the names on the slate of candidates:

African States: Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, the Niger, and Swaziland.

Asia-Pacific States: Cyprus, Kiribati, Oman, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Eastern European States: Georgia.

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina, Grenada and Saint Lucia.

Western European and other States: Iceland and Portugal.

Since the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled in each region, I declare those candidates elected, in addition to the five representatives from the permanent members of the Security Council.

The following States have therefore been elected to vice-presidencies of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session: Argentina, Burkina Faso, China, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Georgia, Grenada, Iceland, Kiribati, Libya, the Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Swaziland, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the States that have just been elected Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session.

Before adjourning, I wish to inform members that, as agreed by the Chairs of the Main Committees, the consecutive meetings of the six Main Committees scheduled for today are postponed to Monday, 16 June 2014. An announcement in the *Journal of the United Nations* will follow.

I wish to remind members that after the election of the Chairpersons of the six Main Committees, the General Committee of the General Assembly for the sixty-ninth session will then be fully constituted in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

United Nations A/68/PV.94

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

94th plenary meeting
Thursday, 12 June 2014, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 119

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/841)

Draft resolution (A/68/L.50)

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): By its resolution 66/282 of 29 June 2012, the Assembly decided to undertake, at this session, an examination of the report of the Secretary-General, as well as the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and to consider updating the Strategy to respond to changes.

It is my pleasure to deliver the following statement on behalf of the President of the General Assembly.

(*spoke in English*)

"At the outset, I would like to thank the Minister of Territorial Administration and Security of Burkina Faso and the Deputy Ministers of Indonesia, the Philippines, Spain, Tanzania and Turkey for their participation in today's fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

"I am also grateful to the facilitator of the draft resolution for the fourth review, Mr. Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey. He has worked assiduously and consulted openly and broadly with Member States to arrive at a consensus on a draft resolution upon which the General Assembly will take action.

"The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a strategic and comprehensive policy framework to combat terrorism. Adopted by consensus in 2006, it signifies universal condemnation of terrorist violence and provides guidance to Member States through its four pillars. It is my hope that this fourth review of the Strategy will lead to a comprehensive and balanced implementation on the ground, which remains the primary responsibility of Member States, with assistance and support from the United Nations. The review also provides an opportunity to take stock of emerging issues and challenges that have grown in relevance over the recent years and to identify the areas where we need to do things differently or adopt different lines of action.

"The Secretary-General, in his report A/68/841, entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", documents worrying trends in how terrorists operate and how terrorism can spread, including through the exploitation of political turbulence and weak governance, the abuse of the Internet, and the evolution of terrorist groups from centrally controlled outfits to a diverse set of loose networks. It further observes that

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long-term success in the global counter-terrorism strategy will depend on fuller implementation of pillars I and IV.

"In that connection, I convened an interactive dialogue on addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, including through countering the appeal of terrorism. During the dialogue, participants exchanged information on counter-radicalization, deradicalisation and rehabilitation initiatives. Many of those initiatives draw on partnerships comprised of multiple actors, including civil society. Those actors have the ability to penetrate vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. They engage directly with communities and their leaders, help build consensus and understanding on local issues, and contribute to socioeconomic development. Civil society organizations are also among the first to identify an emerging threat or violent narrative. Better collaboration between Governments and civil society must be encouraged, and the review provides us with a way to do so.

"Support for victims of terrorism must also be a key aspect of our collective efforts. Victims continue to relive the horrors of terrorism every day, long after the media attention has dissipated and the attack itself has become a mere memory. The international community must come together to delegitimize terrorism by providing necessary support to victims of terrorism. We need new and innovative responses on that front. The United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, which was launched yesterday, is an excellent example of concrete and meaningful assistance to victims of terrorism, and I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in bringing the Portal to fruition. I repeat my call on all States to contribute to the Portal.

"The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force serves as a vital framework to promote coordination and coherence in the Organization's work against terrorism and to better assist Member States in the implementation of the Strategy. The review allows us to underscore and support enhanced coordination across the United Nations system and the central role of the framework. The establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre within the CTITF Office offers unique opportunities to seek synergies and leverage resources for the United Nations counter-terrorism work around the world and makes a significant contribution to national and regional efforts. It is my hope that it will further enable the United Nations to strengthen its counter-terrorism assistance to Member States on the ground.

"For those efforts to ensure that the United Nations responds dynamically and in a more coherent manner to the evolving threat of terrorism, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Secretary-General. In particular, I note his efforts to mainstream counter-terrorism in the overall work of the United Nations system.

"The fourth review is given new impetus and urgency by the growth of terrorism in several parts of the world, the evidence of which is fresh in all of our minds. The clear lesson to be drawn is that in such a changed and compelling international context, one where terrorism is showing that it respects no national borders, we need to be united, vigorous and purposeful in our response.

"The review will set the direction of the United Nations system for the next two years, leading up to the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2016. It is therefore an opportunity to make the United Nations more relevant in the international effort to fight that destructive and deplorable malady confronting our world."

Mr. Bougouma (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): I would like at the outset to thank the President of the General Assembly for having convened this high-level meeting on the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was born of the desire of Member States to establish a single instrument that deals with the issue of combating terrorism in a holistic manner. It has the advantage of addressing both the scope of prevention and measures for combating terrorism. All of those measures are reflected in the Strategy's four pillars, which are the best reference for Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts.

The report of the Secretary-General before us at this review (A/68/841) provides us with a good understanding of the progress that countries have made in the implementation of the Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy and allows us to understand the evolving nature of terrorism. My country, Burkina Faso, strongly supports the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a comprehensive and effective framework for fighting terrorism. We reaffirm our support for the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, whose activities range from conflict prevention and resolution to capacity-building, education, peacekeeping and health care, as well as other development issues that have found a place in our deliberations today.

The Sahel subregion, to which my country belongs, has become the theatre for terrorist acts, suicide bombings and hostage-taking. It has been established that the groups that commit those acts use the fruits of transnational organized crime to achieve their purposes. We strongly condemn here today the abduction by Boko Haram of schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigeria, on 14 April and that group's ongoing criminal activities, as well as suicide attacks against peacekeepers in northern Mali. My country welcomes the coordination and cooperation efforts being deployed by the countries of the subregion to address these phenomena in an integrated manner.

Burkina Faso is a party to almost all of the universal conventions and protocols in the field of combating terrorism. At the regional and subregional levels, it is sparing no effort to ensure the successful implementation of the 1999 African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Economic Community of West African States Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, and Drug Abuse in West Africa. The Government of Burkina Faso has diversified its partnerships by joining with other actors in the field of counter-terrorism, while continuing to work domestically to fulfil its sovereign role of protecting its citizens.

As part of those diverse partnerships, the Government of Burkina Faso actively participates in activities organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, including those relating to the issue of borders and capacity-building for the formulation of national and regional strategies. In 2013 alone, my country co-hosted a series of activities with several partners, including a workshop on countering violent extremism in West Africa and the Sahel, co-organized by Burkina Faso, Denmark and the Centre on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, whose findings led to the formulation of a programme of action for the region; a workshop on enhancing the coordination of mechanisms for preventing and combating terrorism, which provided the framework for the launch of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative in Burkina Faso; a workshop on integrating human rights in the fight against terrorism, which led to the development of training curricula on good practices; and a visit to Burkina Faso in November 2013 by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on nuclear non-proliferation.

In addition to those initiatives, the Government of Burkina Faso has continued to take positive steps to allow for a better distribution of national wealth and to reduce the social divide as much as possible. To that end, it has been able to consolidate a social floor based on dialogue, a culture of peace, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

With regard to territorial surveillance and border control, the Government of Burkina Faso has adopted laws and regulations with a view to strengthening the operational capacity of monitoring bodies at borders. With regard to the suppression of the financing of terrorism and terrorist acts, several measures have been taken by our Government to prevent money laundering, in particular the adoption in 2009 of a law proscribing the financing of terrorism and the creation of the National Unit for Processing Financial Information. In the context of the effective implementation of the sanctions regime against terrorist groups and entities taking part in terrorism, the Government established a mechanism for the freezing of assets under the authority of the Minister of Economy and Finance.

Although it cannot be denied that it is the primary responsibility of States to undertake the fight against terrorism, we must acknowledge that the lack of financial and technical resources does not always allow the various relevant structures involved in the struggle to fully play their roles. That means that the issue of technical assistance to States should be treated with due attention. We hope that this fourth review meeting will strengthen the momentum towards greater cooperation in the successful implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. For its part, Burkina Faso reaffirms its commitment to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all other initiatives that contribute to the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to commend all multilateral and bilateral partners working with

Burkina Faso and other Sahel countries to carry on the fight against terrorism in all its dimensions. That fight is shared and universal, and it is the duty of the international community to remain mobilized against the inhuman and deadly phenomenon of terrorism.

Mr. Khalil (Egypt): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

At the outset, the OIC expresses its sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts of Ambassador Y. Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, and his team in facilitating in an efficient and transparent manner the consultations on the outcome of the fourth review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The OIC strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, as well as individual and group terrorism, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. It also underlines the importance of upholding international law, international humanitarian law, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. It is committed to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a uniform, sustained and comprehensive manner, bearing in mind that terrorism cannot be defeated by military force, law-enforcement measures or intelligence operations alone. The OIC stresses the central role of the General Assembly in countering terrorism and following up implementation of the Strategy, since it is the only United Nations body that enjoys universal membership. We reiterate that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an ongoing effort and a living document that should be updated and examined regularly.

The Strategy's success depends on balanced implementation of its four pillars. The OIC reaffirms the importance of making a concerted and focused effort to effectively address the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as set out in pillar I of the Strategy. This includes preventing the unlawful use of force and aggression as well as ending foreign occupation and political, economic and social injustices.

The OIC continues to reject unequivocally any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. We believe that irresponsible statements that purport to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality or civilization are themselves a clear incitement to terrorism. We strongly condemn acts of violent extremism and incitement to commit terrorist acts and affirm the importance of bringing to justice any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or commission of terrorist acts.

The OIC is concerned about the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorist groups with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions. We emphasize the fact that paying ransoms helps to fund terrorist activities, supports their recruitment efforts and strengthens their operational capability for organizing and carrying out terrorist attacks. We advise against attempts by non-United Nations entities to categorize States in relation to terrorism financing without a basis in fact, and urge all relevant United Nations bodies to address the issue of the financing of terrorism in an impartial, objective, technical and non-political manner, and to take this important issue into account when dealing with such entities. We also reject the unilateral compilation of lists accusing States of supporting terrorism. We consider such acts incompatible with international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The OIC is concerned about violations of human rights that occur during efforts to combat terrorism, and about the broader impact of armed drone attacks on individuals and the psychological well-being of children, families and communities, which can include such effects as the interruption of children's education, the undermining of religious and cultural practices and a reluctance to assist victims of armed drone attacks for fear of being caught in secondary strikes.

The transparency and coordination of the activities conducted by counter-terrorism-related United Nations entities should be enhanced and duplication of effort should be avoided. While the OIC supports institutional coherence in the United Nations, we also emphasize the importance of respecting the mandates of its various organs, as outlined in the Charter. We recognize the importance of the regular briefings in recent years on the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We commend its efforts and strongly encourage it to continue with the same diligence and to keep Member States updated on its work. We also encourage the Task Force to enhance its

consultations with Member States during the planning and preparation phase of its activities. The OIC stresses that implementation of the Strategy is first and foremost the responsibility of Member States, and we call for Member States' enhanced engagement with the work of the Task Force.

The OIC firmly believes that the involvement of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes in the implementation of the Strategy as a whole should not affect their mandates and operational activities. We note with appreciation the important work being done by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and its role in building Member States' capacity to counter and respond to terrorism. We recognize the importance of strengthening support to Member States that request it for national implementation of the Strategy through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building based on their national priorities.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the OIC's strong commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to assure the Assembly of our continuing efforts to implement the Strategy in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

Ms. Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

At the outset, our group would like to express its appreciation for the outstanding and dedicated manner in which Ambassador Halit Çevik, the Permanent Representative of Turkey, and his team have led the review process.

The General Assembly's adoption in September 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy marked a significant breakthrough in the fight against terrorism, as Member States recognized and committed themselves to a plan of action that expanded the global counter-terrorism framework to include not only law enforcement and other security measures, but also measures aimed at ensuring respect for human rights and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, such as prolonged unresolved conflict, rule-of-law problems, violations of human rights, and social, economic and political marginalization.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, and reaffirms its robust support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. For those reasons, CELAC emphasizes the importance of redoubling efforts aimed at achieving evenly distributed attention to and an integrated and balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy. In that regard, CELAC takes note of the Secretary-General's report on United Nations system activities in implementing the Strategy (A/68/841), which includes important inputs from all members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and concludes with a number of observations and recommendations.

CELAC notes with appreciation the Secretary-General's recognition of the need for stronger coordination and coherence within the Task Force itself, and in that regard notes the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. Our countries hope that this will contribute to a more balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy. We also note the Task Force Office's efforts to enhance coordination and coherence by drawing up a comprehensive matrix of all projects and activities being carried out by the 31 Task Force entities, as well as through efforts to reform and revitalize its inter-agency working groups in order to promote coherence and reduce duplication and overlapping. Our Group has consistently recommended measures in that regard and therefore welcomes those important efforts.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States shares some of the views expressed by the Secretary-General in section V of his report, and we fully endorse paragraph 112, which states:

> "Efforts to prevent and combat terrorism will fail if the international community creates more terrorists than it defeats by its actions. Adherence to pillar IV of the Strategy by observing the universal norms of human rights and the rule of law in the international community's counter-terrorism activities is essential to the success of its efforts. The Secretary-General therefore strongly urges national authorities, particularly security and judicial bodies that are directly responsible for combating terrorism, to make more concerted efforts to mainstream human rights and the rule

of law in their counter-terrorism policies and practices." (*A/68/841, para. 112*)

In that context, CELAC underscores that measures to combat terrorism must always be conducted in strict observance of international law, including human rights law, international humanitarian law and international law on refugees. Only those measures adopted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the other relevant international norms can be successful and garner the broad support of the international community. Actions taken outside the international legal framework are unjustifiable, illegal and unacceptable.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

In that regard, CELAC recalls resolution 68/178, entitled "Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism", adopted by consensus on 18 December 2013. Among the various relevant issues addressed in that resolution, the CELAC countries would like to highlight the right to privacy, which is essential to human dignity and a fundamental human right and whose protection is crucial to safeguarding individuals against the abuse of power. We are deeply concerned about the negative impact that State surveillance and/or the interception of communications, including extraterritorially, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights.

The Group strongly rejects the use of information and communication technology against any Member State in violation of international law, and underscores the importance of ensuring that the use of such technology is fully compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular sovereignty, non-interference in internal matters, the right to privacy and the norms for peaceful coexistence among States. Furthermore, we recall that any interference in or restriction of the right to privacy should be adequately regulated and subject to oversight and possible redress, including through judicial review or other means, to ensure that the measures are not without grounds.

In the context of the global counter-terrorism framework, the countries members of CELAC reiterate their commitment to strengthening efforts to safeguard cyberspace and to promote its exclusive use for peaceful purposes and as a vehicle for economic and social development. Moreover, we reiterate our belief in combating terrorism through multilateralism. Likewise, we reject the development of unilateral lists accusing States of allegedly supporting and sponsoring terrorism. Such actions are inconsistent with international law.

With regard to the establishment of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime by the Security Council as a measure in the fight against terrorism, the Group acknowledges the steps taken by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities to ensure clearer and fairer procedures. In that regard, CELAC strongly supports the role of the Ombudsperson, which has significantly improved the transparency and impartiality of the delisting process. We are convinced that the Ombudsperson position should be made permanent and due process further enhanced in the sanctions regimes, in particular given the preventive nature of such measures.

CELAC also wishes to recognize the important work carried out by regional and subregional organizations in implementing the Strategy and calls on them to strengthen their cooperation in order to succeed in the fight against terrorism. In that regard, we urge the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to undertake capacity-building activities in our region and to provide technical assistance, when requested, taking into account the specific needs and national priorities of our countries. The tools developed by that Office, including the counter-terrorism legal database, the online learning platform and technical assistance for countering the use of the Internet to promote terrorism, are extremely useful in preventing and fighting against that threat.

Notwithstanding the significant efforts and achievements registered in implementing the Strategy, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report, CELAC remains concerned that terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to Member States and to the international community as a whole. Our Group is convinced that the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism is the only way to ensure an effective counter-terrorism legal framework. In that regard, we call on Member States to commit to resolving, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the pending issues that have hampered the achievement of such an agreement, in particular those linked to the legal definition and the scope of the matters to be included in the convention.

Finally, the members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States reiterate their profound solidarity with the victims of terrorist acts and underscore the need to provide them all necessary support. Our Group trusts that the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, launched yesterday, will give them a voice and facilitate access to support. CELAC also reiterates the need to prevent impunity for those who commit terrorist acts. In that regard, we call on Member States to continue to cooperate in that fight, in accordance with international law.

The Acting President: I give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Ms. Marinaki (European Union): I am honoured to deliver our contribution to the fourth review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on behalf of the European Union and its member States. We would also like to thank Ambassador Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, and his team for all their facilitation efforts in that process.

The candidate countries Turkey, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

International terrorism continues to pose a highly significant threat to global peace and security. Our response must evolve and develop to meet the threats of today and confront those of tomorrow. The phenomenon of foreign fighters, for example, poses an increasingly acute threat that we all must face. There is a need to adapt to the new developments in terrorism and to take into consideration the implications drawn from recent terrorist attacks, such as the one that took place at the Jewish Museum of Belgium, in Brussels, on 24 May.

To meet that challenge, the deepening of the international consensus and the enhancement of international efforts to combat terrorism continue to be key objectives for the European Union and its member States. Therefore, we fully support the United Nations key role in the prevention of and fight against terrorism in full compliance with international law and human rights. We will continue to strongly support international counter-terrorism cooperation and the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law, which we believe to be its cornerstone. As respect for the human rights of all and the rule of law are the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism and essential to all components of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the European Union is disappointed to not see more language relating to that important pillar in draft resolution A/68/L.50.

The European Union pursues an integrated approach to counter-terrorism, combining prevention, protection and the pursuit of and response to terrorist threats and attacks. The approach is based on criminal justice, the promotion of the rule of law and the protection of, and full respect for, human rights, which permeates all European Union policies. Our objective, therefore, is to assist all countries through capacity-building in the fields of the rule of law, criminal justice and law enforcement, and the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with international standards.

Security sector reform is crucial for the implementation of pillar II of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Countries in transition are in need of ensuring sufficient capabilities to deal with old, new and evolving terrorist threats. They should focus on an approach based on the rule of law and respect for human rights in order to efficiently and credibly prevent and fight terrorism. We also believe that the financing of terrorism and, in that context, organized crime such as money-laundering, illicit drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom or human trafficking, should be given more attention in the field of security sector reforms.

Terrorism can also feed off of and increase political instability. There cannot be any sustainable development without peace and security, and without development there will be no lasting peace. The nexus between security and development, particularly in view of the post-2015 development agenda, needs to be mainstreamed throughout all national policies. The European Union therefore promotes a comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism, which includes security and development activities at the national, regional and international levels to better address the conditions conducive to the spreading of terrorism.

The European Union very much welcomes the United Nations strategic framework, in particular the strong focus on the prevention of terrorism and countering violent extremism. The phenomenon of the radicalization of terrorism can be best addressed at the

level closest to vulnerable individuals and in the most affected communities, including through engagement with non-governmental organizations, front-line workers, women, civil society organizations, including victims' groups, local authorities, academia, schools, law enforcement and security officials. Education and youth exchanges are areas that provide a unique opportunity to help young people think critically about extremists' views and discourse and can help expose such malign propaganda. In that context, the European Union welcomes the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum initiative for the creation of a global community engagement and resilience fund.

Assistance to victims of terrorism and their families is a key part of the European Union's counter-terrorism efforts. We aim to enhance the representation of victims' interests at the European Union level and raise awareness among European citizens in order to strengthen European solidarity with victims of terrorism. In that context, the European Union and its member States welcome the web portal for victims created by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) as an important initiative to raise global awareness and assist Member States with support programmes for victims and their families.

The European Union and its member States are encouraged by the United Nations commitment to strengthening the coordination of relevant United Nations agencies and initiatives. Enhanced cooperation between CTITF, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and other United Nations bodies is indispensable for increasing the effectiveness of the counter-terrorism strategy. The European Union supports a more focused role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The European Union shares the Secretary-General's view that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre must first and foremost be efficient in its delivery of resources for counter-terrorism assistance. In that context, the European Union and participating member States on the Advisory Board of the Centre seek to play a decisive role in assisting the Centre to define its future priorities so that it can become, within the CTITF, a centre of excellence with its own role and added value. The European Union is prepared to offer its support and expertise.

Moreover, the European Union encourages closer coordination of United Nations actions with other key multilateral and regional initiatives, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, with its action-oriented approach to the coordination of counter-terrorism capacity-building measures, which could provide valuable contributions to the United Nations review, and on assistance for the implementation of the counter-terrorism strategy. Through its various initiatives, such as the Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, in Abu Dhabi, and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, in Malta, to which the United Nations has greatly contributed through its input and expertise, important synergies can be created and scarce human and financial resources conserved.

We must also cooperate more closely with civil society and the private sector to address challenges faced online while protecting the right to privacy and freedom of speech. The European Union has set up a forum with key players in the industry to discuss opportunities for closer cooperation and supports the production and dissemination of counter-narratives in that respect.

The European Union welcomes the fact that the Security Council has taken significant steps to further reinforce fair and clear procedures for United Nations sanctions. The European Union commends the work of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and reiterates its support to her unwavering efforts.

In conclusion, the European Union views the Secretary-General's report (A/68/841) as a useful step forward towards preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in a comprehensive and multilaterally coordinated manner, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law. Therefore we fully support the report and, in that respect, are prepared to assist all countries in building adequate capacities and by sharing its expertise.

The fight against and prevention of terrorism requires a long-term commitment and sustainable, transparent and credible structures. While even this will not entirely eradicate terrorism, we are convinced that it will contribute substantially to reducing terrorism in the long run.

The biennial review is a valuable indicator for enabling Member States to detect implementation gaps.

However, two years is a very short period in which to implement long-term counter-terrorism strategies and actions plans. In the wake of the tenth anniversary, in 2016, of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the European Union and its member States suggest that both the Strategy's implementation and its review cycle be fully reconsidered, including through regular needs-assessment reports, in order to ensure that the United Nations maintains a current response to terrorism's ever-changing nature. The European Union stands ready to play an active role in that regard.

Mr. Rezag Bara (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the President for the importance he has attached to the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to thank Ambassador Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, for his efforts in coordinating our work, and to congratulate him on his successful efforts to help us reach a consensus on the draft resolution on the fourth review of the Strategy (A/68/L.50).

The Algerian delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of our sister Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. My delegation takes this opportunity to once again condemn, in the strongest possible terms, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including all acts and activities, especially those that support, encourage, justify or promote it directly or indirectly. Terrorism has no religion, homeland or justification and cannot be ascribed to any particular culture, civilization or human community.

Algeria would like to emphasize that it fully supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My delegation endorses the outstanding efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force through its work as a focal point for the bodies and entities involved in implementing the Strategy. In that regard, I would like to stress how important it is that the Strategy document be kept open and susceptible to revision, enrichment and adaptation to changing developments and requirements for combating terrorism, including the evolving challenges that this transnational scourge presents.

I would like to stress the importance of the comprehensive and integrated implementation of the Strategy and its four pillars, since in order to improve promotion of the Strategy in the wake of its third review, in 2012, further additional efforts are required if we are to achieve all the Strategy's objectives in the coming years. I would be remiss if I did not underline the importance of consolidating efforts within the Strategy by enhancing cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels, strengthening capabilities and exchanging best practices and expertise on combating terrorism. In that regard, I would like to highlight the effective efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the pivotal role it plays in consolidating the Strategy's pillars while focusing on encouraging Member States to provide adequate financial and human resources for the Centre.

Turning to the subject of the measures being taken to establish the position of coordinator for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, we hope that the consultations on this matter will be completed so that all appropriate arrangements can be made, including establishing the terms of references and the legislative mandate of the position, which will undoubtedly constitute another effective mechanism for the coordination of relations among all stakeholders within the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I take this opportunity to review a number of key aspects of Algeria's approach to combating terrorism, based on our national assessment of the dangers and challenges that this scourge presents at both the national and the regional levels. Our approach is based in large measure on the importance of enlisting domestic support to ensure that the political dimension is significant. From that perspective, the national peace and reconciliation agreement proposed by the President of Algeria, which was endorsed by a public referendum in 2005, constitutes a solid foundation that has enabled us to restore civil security, national unity and effective social cohesion and solidarity. The policy has ended a national tragedy while providing compensation and support to all victims of terrorism and their families. It has also enabled us to improve economic and social development through the implementation of integrated and ambitious programmes that have helped to mitigate the effects of unemployment, open new possibilities for young people and encourage productive investments.

We cannot achieve a lasting defeat of terrorism without considering its ideological roots and intellectual sources and without fighting the extreme narratives of incitement that attract and have an impact on some of society's weaker and more vulnerable groups. Algeria

has therefore worked to develop religious guidance programmes in line with the tolerant message of the Prophet Mohammed and to put in place multidisciplinary educational, civic and cultural programmes that can promote the basic principles of tolerance, peace and human rights. We have also consistently worked to institute reforms and review processes within our constitutional system aimed at promoting the values of democracy, the rule of law and public freedoms, and to make progress with economic and institutional reforms that can help to promote the pillars of development, social progress and the reduction of inequality.

Algeria's policy for combating transnational terrorism has a vital regional dimension, as demonstrated in our close multilateral cooperation in recent years with members of Africa's Sahel region, aimed at combating the exponential increase in terrorist activities in that region initiated by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Algeria has also worked with neighbouring countries to strengthen cooperation in fighting terrorism throughout the region by setting up various mechanisms aimed at addressing security situations and political challenges in a way that fully respects the sovereignty and national unity of States and provides new opportunities for partnership and cooperation in the development, economic and humanitarian fields.

I note that rampant security lapses in some countries of the region and the escalation of terrorist activities are closely linked to arms smuggling and drug trafficking. In that regard, my delegation wishes once again to sound the alarm and draw attention to the need to suppress the financing of terrorism with more firmness and resolve and to fight the phenomenon of kidnapping, hostage-taking and the exchange of hostages for financial ransom and political concessions. That tactic has generated large amounts of money for terrorist groups, thereby strengthening their lethal capabilities.

Algeria is pleased with its level of cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms and specialized programmes in combatting terrorism, especially the training programmes developed in Algeria in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.

Furthermore, Algeria's membership in the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum is another clear testimonial of its commitment to participating in any earnest effort to promote international cooperation against terrorism. With Canada, Algeria co-chairs the working group on strengthening capabilities to combat terrorism in the African Sahel region. Since 2011, it has also hosted and participated in a number of coordination and assessment activities aimed at strengthening capabilities and exchanging expertise in order to implement the best practices in addressing terrorism in all its aspects.

In conclusion, Algeria hopes that the draft resolution that will come out of our deliberations in this meeting will be yet another effective building block within our collective endeavours to combat transnational terrorism.

Mr. İşcan (Turkey): May I first express our thanks to the President for convening this fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to review the progress made and update our response to the evolving challenges. I would also like to extend our appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his comprehensive report (A/68/841).

We welcome the new summary matrix of the counter-terrorism projects implemented by the United Nations around the world, which will be a valuable instrument for better coordination. Turkey firmly believes that, by virtue of its universal representation and capacity to interlink various aspects in addressing terrorism, the United Nations continues to have a central role to play in combating that scourge.

I wish to inform the Assembly that Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu was scheduled to be here. But after his arrival in New York to address this body, he was compelled to return to Turkey in view of the developments in Iraq.

At this juncture, I think it would be relevant and appropriate to share information in regard to the ongoing crisis in Iraq resulting from the horrific attacks by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The attacks by ISIL have broad security implications for Iraq, the region and the international community, establishing once again the transboundary nature of the growing terrorism threat. They are a telling example of the proportions of the threat of terrorism that we are facing. Later, I shall also convey the views of my Government on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

ISIL launched attacks on 6 June in Mosul. At present, we may assume that ISIL has at least 3,000 heavily-armed militants operating in Mosul and its vicinity. The number of internally displaced persons is estimated to have reached around half a million. Meanwhile, the Turkish Government has already commenced a campaign to provide humanitarian assistance.

Furthermore, I also wish to inform the Assembly with regard to the Turkish Consulate General in Mosul. Upon the launching of attacks by ISIL in Mosul, the Iraqi security forces fled the region and those responsible for protecting the Consulate General also abandoned their positions. That situation was reported to the Government of Iraq. Meanwhile, the fast-developing circumstances did not allow for the secure evacuation of the mission.

Early in the morning of 11 June, a 900-strong, heavily-armed ISIL militant group seized the consular premises and moved its personnel, including the Consul General, as well as the family members of its staff, to another area of the city. Altogether, there were 49 staff and family members, with two babies among them. Moreover, 31 of our citizens have been taken hostage by the same group in a power plant in the Gyarah region. Currently, intensive efforts are under way and we have mobilized all available means to secure their safe return. We also have a number of citizens in the region. We are taking all possible measures to ensure their safety. Representations have been made to the Iraqi Government, as well as to the international organizations, including the United Nations and NATO.

As for the Global Strategy, its success will depend on the ability of Member States to implement all four pillars in a balanced manner. It is also crucial to use our existing tools and mechanisms effectively, in particular those we have established under the framework of the United Nations. The bad news is that the threat of terrorism has proliferated ideologically and geographically. It has become less predictable and more atrocious. It is evolving faster than ever. On the other hand, the good news is that we now know more about the dynamics of terrorism and our collective capabilities against that transnational threat are enhanced considerably. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the Assembly in 2006 was a landmark in that regard.

I reaffirm Turkey's full commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As emphasized by various General Assembly resolutions, it is of critical importance that terrorism not be associated with any religion or ethnicity.

The Global Strategy provides good guidance for all. As the report before us articulately describes, in the run-up to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy we must make a concerted and focused effort with regard to the preventive aspects of counter-terrorism. At the same time, we must send a clear message to terrorists that there is no safe haven or immunity from justice. To that end, we must ensure the robust implementation of the universal principle either to prosecute or to extradite. No act of terrorism should go unpunished. While that is critical to our collective efforts to counter terrorism, perhaps more significantly, we owe it to the victims of terrorism.

In recent years, it has become clearer that new trends, such as the threat from self-radicalized individuals, a growing exchange among locally active terrorist groups and the increase in the number of attacks on economic or otherwise sensitive infrastructure, require agility in our responses. Furthermore, we know by experience that the threat of terrorism is spread by violent and turbulent conflicts. Sustained conflicts not only provide groups involved in terrorism the opportunity for recruitment but also safe havens to increase their warfare capabilities. Such facts compel us to enhance the coherence, complementarity and dexterity of our existing counter-terrorism measures by developing new approaches and tools. We need to find the right balance between hard and soft power alternatives.

Turkey is taking resolute action to implement the Global Strategy and to support the various United Nations initiatives with a view to promoting its integrated implementation. Our priority is first and foremost to enhance international cooperation and, where necessary, to assist capacity-building efforts. In that regard, we have concluded bilateral agreements in the field of security cooperation, the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime with about 70 countries.

On the national front, we continue to align our counter-terrorism legislation with the international instruments. Since the previous reporting period, Turkey enacted a new law to counter the financing of terrorism in February 2013 and its implementing regulation in May 2013. A landmark in our counter-

terrorism legislation, the law introduced a asset-freezing mechanism, as outlined by the Financial Action Task Force.

In addition to our bilateral efforts, we continue to engage in the regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. Currently, together with the United States of America, we co-chair the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which is an informal and consultative global platform dedicated to complementing the work of the United Nations. We make intensive efforts to create synergies between regional organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Last but not least, we give our utmost support to efforts to enhance dialogue and to broaden understanding among the various civilizations. Our co-chairmanship of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative is the outcome of our resolute stance against any kind of polarization and intolerance.

Turkey is proud to have facilitated draft resolution A/68/L.50 on the outcome of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with all partners for its implementation.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/68/841). Let me also thank the Permanent Representative of Turkey for facilitating the discussion on the outcome of the fourth review of the Strategy, contained in draft resolution A/68/L.50, whose adoption we support. My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement delivered earlier this morning by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The report of the Secretary-General clearly indicates that the threat of terrorism persists. As a response, all of us, without exception, must not only remain vigilant but also prevent and pre-empt such heinous acts. We need not only to match but also to overcome the existing challenges and threats. The United Nations must continue to play an instrumental role in the global cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism. Indonesia, for its part, remains committed to the balanced and comprehensive implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.

Despite our many achievements in preventing and combatting terrorism, we still have homework to do. In the light of that, the fourth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review provides us with an opportune juncture to learn from each other. As a departing point, we maintain that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, amounts only to the destruction of human lives and the breach of peace. Therefore, no reason whatsoever can justify or rationalize acts of terrorism.

In that conviction, I would like to highlight the statement made in the report of the Secretary-General that countering incitement to terrorism should play a more important role in the implementation of the Strategy. Indeed, terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Indonesia believes that responding to the practice of manipulating religion for the purpose of terrorism must become an integral part of our counter-terrorism measures. In so doing, we must promote tolerance and empower society, in particular among moderates, religious leaders and civil society.

As a multicultural country, Indonesia strongly believes in the efficacy of dialogue. Dialogue will not only bridge differences but also increase understanding. In our experience, understanding is the greatest recipe for tolerance and harmony. As we have been a victim of terrorist attacks, fostering dialogue among different faiths is an integral part of Indonesia's strategy to counter the incitement to terrorism. We are now taking that initiative a step further by facilitating dialogue between convicted terrorists and moderate clerics under the umbrella of the deradicalization programme.

To sustain the programme and to ensure that it achieves its intended result, the Government of Indonesia has outlined a deradicalization blueprint and a national programme on deradicalization. The blueprint includes a rehabilitation, reintegration and re-education programme for convicted terrorists, particularly those who have almost completed their sentences, in order to prepare them for their return and reintegration into society and to disengage them from their earlier groups. The blueprint also comprises a strategy for empowering society and the media in order to make the voice of tolerance and harmony more sustainable.

Turning to another perspective, it is not without reason to say that moderates, as well as the promotion of dialogue, can provide an effective remedy for the

increasingly alarming issue of foreign fighters. We commend the Secretary-General for giving attention to this issue in his report. We share his concerns that so-called foreign fighters may one day return to their home country and bring their radical ideology with them.

Preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism is also a critical part of combating it. It is therefore important that States have the capacity to identify, freeze and seize the assets of individuals or entities affiliated with terrorist organizations. In that connection, Indonesia has enacted a law on the prevention and suppression of the financing of terrorism that lays the necessary foundations for criminalizing terrorist financing and freezing assets belonging to individuals or entities affiliated with terrorism. We are confident that it will help Indonesia to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism while observing its responsibility to respect the rule of law.

It is essential that the review process reinforce the importance of multilateral cooperation against terrorism, including the central role played therein by the United Nations. In that context, I commend the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen synergy among the 31 entities that make up the membership of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We urge that those efforts be enhanced in order to increase efficiency, avoid duplication and ensure that every project of every entity has a significant impact on the ground.

Moreover, we expect the United Nations to play a more instrumental and decisive part in resolving prolonged conflict and instability in certain parts of the globe. Indonesia notes the Secretary-General's observation in his report that terrorist groups continue to take advantage of political turbulence and weak governance in order to further their cause. We have seen terrorist groups exploit such conditions to recruit and groom new converts. This fact again underlines the importance of the rule of law and of States' capacity to implement it in accordance with the principle of national ownership.

The different capacity levels of States when it comes to implementing the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy require us to intensify cooperation in capacity-building. In that regard, Indonesia continues to contribute to strengthening States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, as reflected in the efforts of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, a prominent training centre for law-enforcement officials. Since its inception in 2004, the Centre has trained more than 15,000 law-enforcement officers from 70 countries.

Indonesia is also of the view that ratifying or acceding to international conventions on counter-terrorism, and thereby taking into account States' varying capacities for carrying out their obligations under the conventions, is crucial to further global cooperation. In that spirit, Indonesia has ratified eight conventions relating to terrorism, including, earlier this year, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We are now in the process of ratifying more international conventions on counter-terrorism, such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.

Let me conclude by highlighting the fact that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has provided us with a comprehensive and internationally accepted strategy for combating this menace. That effort against terrorism, however, can be successfully prosecuted only if the measures agreed on within the Strategy are consistently implemented in a balanced and comprehensive way. My delegation believes that these multifaceted, integrated and coordinated measures should be fully undertaken by all stakeholders. Together, they will address the conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism; prevent and combat terrorism; build States' capacities to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthen the role of the United Nations systems; and ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. It has always been Indonesia's view that only an all-embracing approach such as this can help us combat terrorism effectively. And only together, all of us, without exception, can we combat it successfully.

Mr. De Benito Secades (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by thanking the President of the General Assembly for organizing this review meeting, and by acknowledging the work of the Permanent Representative of Turkey in facilitating the draft resolution on the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/68/L.50). I would also like to assure him of Spain's solidarity with Turkey in the light of the events that have taken place in Mosul and the terrorist acts there of which many Turkish consular officials have been victims.

The proposed text reflects positive improvements concerning victims of terrorism, some of them suggested by Spain, as well as on other issues updating the fight against terrorism, a constantly changing phenomenon with extremely worrisome aspects, such as foreign fighters and terrorism's links to transnational organized crime. The reality is that terrorism remains a constantly evolving global threat. Even as we witness the proliferation of local or regional groups, we see terrorists acting alone with the ability to strike unpredictably in any arena. Nobody and no country can feel completely immune to this threat to the most basic principles of civilization and coexistence. The challenges currently affecting the African continent — from the Sahel and the Mediterranean to East Africa, and in the resurgence of terrorism in Nigeria, with the threat of its expansion into central Africa — are particularly brutal.

An effective response to this phenomenon demands an integrated approach promoting security and development, in line with pillar I of the Strategy. International cooperation is more essential than ever before. Spain believes that the multilateral framework of legitimacy and consensus that the United Nations provides through the Strategy is the best way to combat this scourge. In order to make the best use of this valuable tool, it is essential to maintain a high level of proper coordination and internal cohesion in the entities that manage the fight against terrorism within the United Nations, and in particular, in addition to the sanctions bodies, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Implementation Strategy, the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. We especially welcome Saudi Arabia's generous contributions, which open up many possibilities for the Centre and its Advisory Board.

We also commend the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, in which we can disseminate and share analysis, recommendations and best practices for training and technical assistance with the full participation of the United Nations and to the benefit of the entire international community.

We are increasingly seeing the importance of the Internet and social networks in the areas of radicalization and recruitment. We should respond with a vigilance and firmness that at the same time are compatible with respect for civil and political rights, and we should be able to count on the cooperation of the private sector.

In the context of the conflict in Syria, the phenomenon of foreign fighters for terrorism who might represent a threat when they return to their places of origin constitutes a challenge that is not limited to Europe and the West. We should be fully aware of the seriousness of that challenge, which is global and requires increased exchanges of police information and intelligence, as well as measures at the local level to prevent such movement, in addition to the monitoring and subsequent reintegration of those who have returned.

I would like to conclude my statement by mentioning Spain's strong commitment to the victims of terrorism, which we reaffirmed yesterday through our support for the establishment of the new United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, in the context of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Our support for victims must include not only the necessary demonstration of solidarity but also our commitment to providing a minimum range of assistance, protection and compensation measures. Only in that way can we turn victims into effective messengers of our system of values and freedoms against terrorism and the wanton and cruel injustice that it represents.

Spain has been able to overcome terrorism through the excellent testimony of its victims and the rule of law within a criminal justice system that fully respects human rights. That principle is crucial to our fight, in particular since it is the moral duty of us all, but also because full respect for the rule of law allows us to preserve the legal order of our coexistence.

Mr. Seguis (Philippines): It has been almost a decade since we moved forward from a platform of platitudes in the fight against terrorism with the historic adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its plan of action in 2006.

The Philippines has faced constant threats of terrorism during the past decade. During our third biennual review, we informed the Assembly about our new laws against money- laundering and terrorist financing, which have strengthened our landmark law on terrorism. At that time, the Financial Action Task Force noted our efforts against money-laundering, counterfeiting and the financing of terrorism.

For this fourth biennial review, our resolve remains clearer than ever. I join all speakers and other delegations before and following me in renewing our commitment against terrorism, which is one of the

gravest threats to international peace and security. We also express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the implementation of the Strategy (A/68/841). Its exhaustive attachments inform us of our contribution to implement the four pillars of the Strategy and its plan of action.

In our continued endeavour to play our part in the global effort against terrorism, I am pleased to report that the Philippines has had successes in its recent efforts. On 23 March 2013, an Australian national, Warren Rodwell, was released by the Abu Sayyaf Group 15 months after his abduction. On 4 December 2013, after 18 months in captivity, Jordanian journalist Baker Atyani of Al-Arabiya was released. On 20 December 2013, a Taiwanese tourist was rescued by the Philippine security forces less than one month after his abduction. On 23 December 2013, senior Abu Sayyaf Group leader Fraser Hajan was killed after resisting arrest in an exchange of fire with police authorities. On 20 February, Philippine-Algerian documentary filmmakers were rescued less than one month after being kidnapped. On 30 May, just recently, a Filipina, Marcy Dayawan, and a Chinese national of mainland China, Gao Hua Kuan, were released in Sulu, southern Philippines, after their kidnap in a Malaysian resort in Semporna, Sabah.

Just yesterday, joint military/police forces captured in Paranaque City, Metro Manila, Khair Mundos, also known as Abu Ayman, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terror group wanted in the United States, who acknowledged having received Al-Qaida funds to finance bombings in the Philippines. In 2009, the United States offered a bounty of $500,000 for the killing or capture of Abu Ayman, while the Philippine Government, through its Department of Interior and Local Governments, offered 1.2 million pesos for the same purpose. I must stress that all the above are in furtherance of pillar II of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, although we can never be too complacent, as the fight continues.

In terms of legislation, our anti-terrorism law is being further strengthened, while three draft bills on the strategic trade management of dual-use goods, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention are all being actively pursued in the Philippine Congress. In fact, just last month, during the visit of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the Philippines signed a memorandum of understanding on combating international terrorism with Indonesia. A manual for collaborative intelligence, investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases has been developed with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. We also have a partnership with the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism on counter-radicalization and deradicalization, which developed a national operational framework.

On 6 March 2013, the European Union and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute established the South-East Asia Regional Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence in Manila and started to work on a CBRN national action plan with the Philippine Government. All such efforts are again part of the continuing efforts of the Philippine Government to address pillar III of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

On the local front, there is the target hardening programme, which seeks to raise security awareness in communities and to train them as force multipliers in monitoring and preventing terrorist attacks against vital installations and critical infrastructure, economic key points and places of convergence. The Philippines has continued its grass-roots efforts to help communities to understand and to protect themselves against extremist and terrorist propaganda. In fact, sports have also been a tool, for example, the annual Football for Peace initiative, which brings children from selected conflict areas to Manila not only for sports clinics but also to transform their outlook in life from a culture of violence to that of a culture of peace. All those efforts are intended to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, or pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

There is also the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which builds an effective criminal justice system by providing more legal tools for law enforcement and judicial authorities to fight terrorism, but which also respects, protects and upholds the rule of law, in particular civil liberties and human rights. That clearly demonstrates that the Philippine Government remains cognizant of its obligation under pillar IV of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We recognize first-hand that fighting this evil, in all its forms and manifestations, is very complex and difficult. But rather than submit to fear and paralysis, we have become all the more undaunted and determined.

With the Strategy and plan of action, we have passed the point of no return. They distil our shared experience and best practices. We look forward to sharing stories on their national implementation as we seek to further improve them.

We must remain ever more vigilant. The fight against terrorism should only unite us, in the spirit of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. I cannot end without adding our congratulations to Ambassador Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, for his masterful facilitation of our consultations. He continues to guide us through the details, without missing the big picture, leading us to the draft resolution that we are poised to adopt by consensus (A/68/L.50).

Mr. Silima (United Republic of Tanzania): The United Republic of Tanzania welcomes the convening of the fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At the outset, we wish to thank the facilitator of the discussion under consideration, Ambassador Yaşar Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, for his excellent work.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 marked an important milestone in our collective fight against terrorism. The Strategy provides us with an invaluable platform for coordination and a multidimensional response to the challenges posed by terrorism. One of the lessons we have all learned is that, because of its breadth and reach, the threat of terrorism may only be overcome through concerted action and cooperation. In that vein, Tanzania has sought to ratify and implement the relevant global and regional instruments against terrorism. We have also enacted national legislation to foster the implementation of our national strategy as well as regional and international undertakings. Addressing the root causes of the scourge is our priority.

We believe that dealing with the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as stated in pillar I of the Strategy, is the best means to prevent the recurrence of such phenomena in the long term. It is our belief that giving priority to preventive aspects means tackling the underlying causes of terrorist acts, many of which are fuelled by situations of social exclusion and injustice. It is also necessary to promote democratic values and political, ethnic and religious tolerance along with cooperation for social and economic development.

Terrorist acts are continually becoming more sophisticated, which makes it essential to strengthen cooperation and coordination, among others, to prevent and combat all forms of terrorist financing, such as piracy and drugs and arms smuggling and trafficking. Coordination must be stepped up in other areas, including information-sharing and the strengthening of legal frameworks. It is in that regard that my country has taken a variety of measures, including enhancing its national legal framework, strengthening measures against money laundering and enhancing all legal measures for preventing and prosecuting transnational crimes.

Let me raise the issue of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and its relevance to terrorist acts, especially in Africa. Having read the draft resolution (A/68/L.50), we believe it apparent that this matter has not attracted the attention it deserves. Allow me to remind the Assembly that easy access to small arms and light weapons, coupled with their misuse, frequently fuels terrorist acts. It would therefore be a mistake for the draft to be silent on the subject of the fight against the illegal proliferation of small arms in our effort to combat terrorism.

In keeping with pillar III, building States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism is a vital aspect of the Global Strategy. We thank the States that have worked with us, both in the region and elsewhere, in support of the Strategy. In that regard, we wish to recognize the support of our colleagues in the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community, both of which Tanzania is a member of and with whom we have regular working groups and joint initiatives.

Respect for the human rights of all and the rule of law, as stated in pillar IV of the Strategy, is crucial in fighting terrorism, which must therefore not become a clash of religions, as terrorism has neither a faith nor a nationality. It is also important to let the victims speak by giving the survivors a voice. More often than not, the victims are hit twice — first physically, by the attack, and secondly in their dignity as human beings, when the murderers get all the attention and the victims, the survivors and their families are forgotten and left alone.

In conclusion, it is our belief that, if we are to meet the growing challenge of terrorism, we are duty-bound to continue to promote close cooperation between all stakeholders. It will therefore be helpful for this fourth

biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to address strengthened coordination and emerging problems, such as the issue of the victims of terrorism and the matter of foreign combatants. The United Republic of Tanzania is confident that these are areas in which we can have an immediate impact.

Mr. Mukerji (India): My delegation would like to thank the President for scheduling this debate, at the conclusion of which we will adopt draft resolution A/68/L.50 on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We would like to express our thanks to our colleague, Ambassador Halit Çevik of Turkey, for having so ably facilitated the process that will lead to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus this year.

On this occasion, my delegation would like to join others in expressing our shock at the attack by terrorists on a Turkish diplomatic post in Iraq yesterday. Since the beginning of this year alone, such wanton terrorist acts have sought to rend asunder the fabric of life in many of our countries, including Afghanistan, Belgium, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, the People's Republic of China, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. We particularly feel the pain and anger of our Turkish colleague today, reminded as we are of a similar heinous act of terrorism executed recently against India's diplomatic post in Herat, Afghanistan, less than a month ago.

We have been actively engaged under the President's leadership in setting the stage for the post-2015 development agenda. We have reviewed many initiatives taken by us collectively here in the United Nations to strengthen, diversify and reform that unique multilateral institution, founded by us almost 70 years ago. In the context of that ambitious collective endeavour, we strongly believe, on the basis of empirical and emotional evidence, that no condition can ever justify or excuse any act of terrorism, nor can there be any recourse to the characterization of any conditions as "conducive" to explain such inhuman wilful acts of destruction. We therefore strongly believe that when commemorating its seventieth anniversary next year, the United Nations must reiterate up front its commitment to zero tolerance of terrorism in all its forms.

The main strength and relevance of the United Nations is its treaty-based character. India, as a founding Member of the United Nations under Article 3 of the Charter of the United Nations, takes special pride in having contributed significantly over those almost seven decades to that strength. However, all those efforts of ours will have come to naught if we are being constantly derailed by the threat and challenge of terrorism.

India was among those countries that identified almost 20 years ago the need for the United Nations, as the repository of codified international law, to build a holistic legal architecture that would address the global threat posed by terrorism. Since 1996, when we began negotiating such a legal instrument, terrorism has metastasized like a virulent form of cancer into a transnational monster. We cannot afford our usual glacial pace of negotiations to put in place the legal structure we need to counter terrorism, which infects all the pillars of our United Nations system, namely, international peace, security, development and human rights.

India's initiative in proposing in the General Assembly the idea of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism came out of the extensive debates all of us participated in at that time. It also came from our historic role, even before the United Nations was founded, in negotiating, signing and ratifying the 1937 League of Nations Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the Second World War, that Convention did not enter into force.

I recall that background today because the grief on the faces of our colleagues from many countries impacted by terrorism compels us to focus on the urgent need to conclude and adopt the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. As has been agreed in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Sixth Committee, which is drafting the instrument, without the comprehensive convention there exists a major legal lacuna in enabling effective international cooperation in the prosecution of terrorism. When terrorism is unanimously acknowledged as a major transnational threat, and in view of the fact that all of us reaffirm that terrorism "cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group", the time has surely come to agree to bridge our differences in defining what terrorism is. The time has come in fact for all of us, including colleagues from those countries that are now facing the brunt of terrorist acts themselves, to agree to conclude the comprehensive convention on international terrorism by the date on which we mark

the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in September 2015.

We have participated actively in the deliberations and drafting of draft resolution A/68/L.50, which will be adopted by consensus at the end of this debate. The draft resolution is a substantive review, as required by resolution 66/282 of 29 June 2012, of how we in the United Nations have progressed in implementing our Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action, adopted in September 2006.

As the draft resolution we are going to adopt shows, we are all acutely aware of the challenges that lie ahead. Emerging new threats, evolving trends of international terrorism, the abuse of information and communication technologies — all of which are vulnerabilities for an increasingly globalized international community — require us to become more dynamic and quick to react in our responses. Member States that have to confront such threats, both old and new, in a more immediate context, have already taken such measures.

India, for example, has taken important steps towards strengthening its strategic, legal and operational framework in the fight against terrorism. Our laws incorporate provisions dealing with all aspects of terrorism including conspiracy and incitement to terrorism. Our laws criminalize the raising of funds for terrorist activities, the holding of the proceeds of terrorism, the harbouring of terrorists, and the unauthorized possession or use of any bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapons.

India has concluded more than 40 bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. We have more than two dozen joint working groups on counter-terrorism with Member States as partners, including with all of the permanent five. India is a member of other intergovernmental initiatives taken to counter terrorism, such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Financial Action Task Force and the Eurasia Group. We stand ready to share our national experience in countering terrorism with interested Member States.

Turning now to the assistance given to Member States by the Secretariat in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we find the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/841), dated 14 April 2014, to be a very interesting document. At the outset, we must note that the work in the Secretariat to counter terrorism is being implemented in parts by 31 entities, with no one point of coordination. In that context, we see merit in considering creating the post of a counter-terrorism coordinator in the Secretariat.

Among the improvements since our last review in 2012, the report highlights the activity of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). We note that the major outcome and focus of the CTITF's activity is in the area of capacity-building. A second major development is the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT). As a member of the Advisory Board of the UNCCT, India notes with appreciation the attempts being made to prioritize its capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, especially among Member States in Africa. As we have stated in the meetings of the Advisory Board, the UNCCT should engage more actively with Member States through a structured discussion on how it can be more relevant to the efforts being made by Member States to implement the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. By doing so, the UNCCT will be better placed to utilize its regular budget allocations, as well as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's very generous grant of $100 million to it, announced in August 2013.

The report, however, is troubling in some of its assertions, particularly in the analysis in paragraphs 10 to 19 dealing with developments in international terrorism. Similarly, we see the necessity of discussing how to overcome the issues mentioned in paragraphs 33 to 37, dealing with the challenges of preventing and resolving conflicts, and paragraphs 74 and 75 on the operation of the sanctions regime mandated by resolution 1267 (1999). We have a particular interest in paragraphs 97 and 98, which propose initiatives with regard to the victims of terrorism. We note with great concern the views in paragraph 104 that, despite the existence of Global Strategy and the efforts of Member States, the threat of terrorism has not been effectively countered.

Due to all the foregoing reasons, my delegation would strongly urge that the General Assembly have an extensive discussion at its sixty-ninth session of the shortcomings of the Global Strategy, which we can then report upon to our leaders who will meet here in New York in September 2015 to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. We make the proposal because of the fact

that the Global Strategy itself was mandated by our leaders at the sixtieth anniversary summit of the United Nations in 2005, and it would be most appropriate for us to provide them with such an assessment for their due consideration when they are adopting the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Zmeevsky (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation strongly condemns terrorism in all its dimensions. We consistently support enhancing effective international counter-terrorism cooperation under the central coordinating role of the United Nations on the basis of the relevant principles and norms of international law, while, of course, avoiding double standards.

We view the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a crucial part of those efforts. The Strategy combines the hard and soft elements of counter-terrorism activities and encourages States to implement the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Strengthening the international legal regime against terrorism and increasing the number of participants in the relevant international treaties remain important issues. Concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations is among the priorities.

The Russian Federation is actively working to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Russian National Counter-Terrorism Committee has adopted and is implementing a special plan that outlines a comprehensive approach to fighting against terrorism. Our focus is on developing the counter-terrorism legislative framework, establishing specialized institutions and ensuring their effective operation, and improving law enforcement. We place particular emphasis on countering extremist ideology and on eliminating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. We make use of the potential of civil society and the business community. As part of the preparations for today's meeting, the Russian Federation submitted to the Secretary-General detailed information on the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is contained in the annex to his report to the General Assembly (A/68/841).

The Russian Federation supports preserving the current balanced format of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which allows the document to remain a universal platform for fighting against terrorism. As joint counter-terrorism activities become increasingly complex, State cooperation in such areas is all the more important and is fundamental to the Strategy's implementation. Clearly, States should more actively find new ways to interact with civil society. It is important to ensure that the participation of non-governmental entities in counter-terrorism activities does not run counter to the principle of respect for the sovereignty of States or to the obligation and responsibility of a State to provide security.

In the context of the changing terrorist threat, Russia underscores the need to step up international and national efforts in priority areas of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, such as preventing the radicalization of society, countering violent extremism, in particular in the form of extreme nationalism and neo-Nazism, and using information and communications technology for the purposes of terrorism. We support the work undertaken by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to implement the Strategy in those areas.

We believe that the joint efforts of States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations should focus on promoting development as an alternative to crime and on establishing societies that reject all forms of terrorist and extremist ideologies.

The increasing use of terrorism in current regional and other armed conflicts must be stopped. It may lead to the weakening or even the destruction, not without outside help, incidentally, of the very foundations of a State, which again plays into the hands of all kinds of terrorists and extremists. The tragic impact in Iraq is a clear example of that. Members of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant have kidnapped people in the country, including Turkish diplomats in the city of Mosul.

In that context, the issue of citizens of various countries fighting in such conflicts in support of terrorist organizations, in particular Al-Qaida and affiliated groups, is being highlighted. Such groups systematically recruit new supporters, train them, provide them with financial and other resources, bring them to areas of conflict and give them an ideological justification for their unlawful actions. Those recruits spread extremist ideologies, engage in recruitment and organize terrorist activity in other countries.

The conflict in Syria remains a focus for terrorist activity. People from the Arab countries, as well as Russia, Europe, Central Asia, the South Caucuses

and North America, are fighting in that country. The phenomenon of terrorist militants coming from abroad is not, of course, limited to the conflict in Syria. The international community faces similar problems in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, Iraq, Libya, Mali and other hotspots. The fact that some of those militants return to their countries of origin or of residence is particularly dangerous. A precondition of their return is that they undergo additional sniper or mine training and commit to continuing the terrorist activity. Upon their return, they take additional steps to hide and change their personal identification data and place of residence.

The threat of new terrorist groups being established has emerged in countries of origin, in particular. Their members comprise, for example, Afghan jihadists, as well as veterans of the Syrian conflict. Russia has actively engaged in the work on that issue in various international forums, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe. We need to be proactive in order to prevent new so-called international terrorist recruits from being sent to areas of armed conflict. In order to respond to that new challenge, we need a systematic approach that combines, among other things, the exchange of information, the strengthening of border controls, work in the area of transport links to identify militants arriving from conflict zones and joint actions to gather evidence of the involvement of jihad tourists in terrorist activities.

It is important to fully utilize bilateral cooperation between the special services and law-enforcement organizations, as well as the border, customs and immigration services. It would also be appropriate to strengthen cooperation among State financial intelligence units, taking into account the fact that terrorist activities are rarely possible without financial support.

It may be useful to draw on the potential of the International Counter-Terrorism Database. The idea of using one area of the Database for the real-time exchange of confidential information on terrorist fighters returning to their countries of origin was discussed at the thirteenth international Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations, held in Sochi on 8 and 9 April.

National laws must be adapted with a view to effectively addressing the challenges posed by terrorist fighters. The Russian Federation has already taken legal steps to prosecute those involved in international terrorist activities. The federal law of 2 November 2013 criminalized undergoing training in order to carry out terrorist activities, the establishment of a terrorist group and its operation, as well as participating in such a group. In order to address the challenges of terror tourism, the Criminal Code establishes liability for joining an armed group not provided for under the laws of the Russian Federation and for joining an armed group on the territory of a foreign State not provided for under the laws of that State whose goals undermine Russia's interests. Currently, we are implementing the principles that I have mentioned above in order to bring those suspected of relevant criminal activities to justice.

We call for strong international cooperation to prevent private military firms and security agencies from recruiting personnel and training them as terrorists and mercenaries to be deployed in areas of armed conflict. We believe that we could more actively use the potential of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism of 2005, which contains important provisions criminalizing the recruitment and training of terrorists, as well as incitement to terrorism. The Convention is open to accession by all States, including non-members of the Council of Europe. We hope that the specialized bodies of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other regional organizations will contribute to an in-depth review of the issue and to drawing up recommendations that may also be appropriate for the United Nations.

Measures to combat the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters should be implemented, while finding a proper balance between the need to ensure security, on the one hand, and to promote fundamental rights and freedoms, including the fundamental right to life, on the other hand. Attention should also be paid to the reintegration of former terrorist fighters into society, in accordance with the national legislation.

The concerted actions of Russian special services and law-enforcement bodies and their partners from a number of States ensured security during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi and contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the Games. We are ready to increase this kind of cooperation. Beyond that, the use of sport as a diplomatic tool has the

potential to become a very important part of our work on preventing terrorism and other crimes influencing young people. We are interested in participating in relevant international projects.

Civil society institutions and representatives of the various religions could contribute significantly to explicating the motives behind radicalization and extremism and the lack of connection between radicalism and genuine Islam. Local religious communities can play a very helpful role in forestalling radical attitudes by raising awareness, especially among young people, of the risks involved and preventive steps that can be taken in order to keep them away from the influence of terrorist and other extremist activities.

In that context, we would like to draw the Assembly's attention to the international conference on countering radicalization conducive to terrorism that was held in Moscow in March last year. Alongside representatives of international organizations, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, non-governmental institutions and members of the academic community, leaders of traditional religious communities also made a significant contribution to the conference.

We intend to continue to develop the subject of countering radicalization in various international forums, giving particular attention to preemptive and preventive measures, suppressing financing for extremist and terrorist organizations and debunking their ideology. To that end, it is important to involve civil society institutions, including mass media, religious organizations and the academic and business sectors.

We believe that implementing international anti-crime and counter-terrorism projects in Government-business partnerships has not lost its relevance. One such initiative, proposed by the Russian company Norilsk Nickel in 2006, is aimed at combating illicit trafficking in precious-metal ores whose proceeds are used to fund transnational crime and to a degree, probably terrorist groups as well. The major result of that project so far is the April 2013 adoption by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and proposed by Russia and the Republic of South Africa, of resolution 2013/38, entitled "Combating transnational organized crime and its possible links to illicit trafficking in precious metals". By the end of this year, in accordance with the resolution, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute should conduct a comprehensive study of the possible links between transnational organized crime and other criminal activities, including terrorism, and illicit trafficking in precious metals.

We expect the work being done on improving protection of the tourism sector from criminal and terrorist threats, under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Tourism Organization, to continue. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice's 2013 report on UNODC efforts on the subject reaffirms the importance to States of increasing study of this issue, a global challenge that it is essential the international community addresses. In order to reduce terrorism's risks to the tourist industry, it would be helpful to develop relevant international recommendations with the participation of the business institutions concerned.

In conclusion, I would like to underscore Russia's commitment to the goals of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We intend to continue to actively implement the Strategy at the national level, to participate in international anti-terrorism cooperation while recognizing its provisions and to actively share our experience in combating terrorism with the partners concerned.

Mr. Rosnes (Norway): I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his informative report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and recommendations on the way forward (A/68/841).

The threat of terrorism has not been reduced since the last review conference (see A/66/PV.118); rather, it is evolving in new and challenging ways. New terrorist groups emerge and take advantage of instability in various parts of the world, particularly the Middle East and Africa. The lines between terrorism, armed conflict and organized crime are increasingly blurred. The threat from so called lone offenders remains. Norway's first-hand experience with the brutality of terrorism in July 2011 was committed by a self-radicalized offender acting alone. International cooperation against terrorism must adapt to this changing landscape. The need for the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and for coordinated action on the part of Member States is as strong as ever.

Member States have primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy. Norway has made good progress in doing so, both at home and around the globe. Last year we adopted our first national counter-terrorism strategy, based on the five principles of prevention, protection, denial, cooperation and response. In January, we ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, thereby ratifying all international conventions concerning terrorism. Earlier this week, our Government presented a new action plan for preventing radicalization and violent extremism. Using a Government-wide approach, it will address radicalization and violent extremism at home and abroad. The plan emphasizes early intervention and the importance of building on existing structures, and also addresses the issue of Internet radicalization.

At the global level, Norway has made voluntary contributions, through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other United Nations entities, aimed at assisting Member States in their counter-terrorism efforts and in implementing the Strategy.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides for a balanced, integrated and holistic approach, and Norway embraces all four of its pillars. We welcome the emphasis the United Nations is placing on countering violent extremism and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Terrorism can be defeated only through a long-term approach, and focusing on the factors that lead individuals to choose the path of terrorism is important in that regard. Community-level engagement, counter-narratives and deradicalization programmes are important tools in the toolbox for countering violent extremism. It is important that such tools be tailored to local needs and challenges. Norway welcomes the establishment of the new Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

Respect for human rights and the rule of law is the starting point for all our efforts against terrorism. Grave violations of human rights can create conditions conducive to terrorism's spread. Norway remains convinced that effective counter-terrorism and the promotion and protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law are mutually reinforcing. In his report, the Secretary-General notes the increasing concerns about the impact on counter-terrorism measures on principled humanitarian action. As the July 2013 independent study commissioned by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Norwegian Refugee Council states, we need closer cooperation between the humanitarian community and donor States.

Norway is concerned about the growing number of foreign fighters in areas of instability and conflict. Not only are they worsening an already fragile situation, they may pose a threat when they return to their places of origin or travel to other unstable areas. The Norwegian Office of the Prosecutor recently indicted three Norwegian citizens for terrorist activities in Syria on behalf of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. We must have increased international cooperation if we are to address the issue of foreign fighters.

The United Nations has a special responsibility for coordinating global efforts against terrorism. We appreciate the work of the CTITF, CTED, UNCCT, UNODC and other entities. However, the role of the United Nations must be further strengthened in order to ensure that the international community's efforts are as closely coordinated and integrated as possible. Improvement is needed in four areas in particular: first, internal coordination and coherence among United Nations Headquarters, field offices and Member State capitals; secondly, enhanced strategic communication within the United Nations and with external partners; thirdly, fostering more integrated responses between CTITF members and their partners; and fourthly, strengthening engagement with United Nations field and regional offices.

Civil society can provide valuable input into the implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy. Norway encourages civil society to increase its engagement and underlines the importance of establishing mechanisms for such engagement.

The post-2015 development agenda highlights the importance of addressing conflict to ensure development progress. It is estimated that by 2030, more than 80 per cent of world poverty will be concentrated in conflict-affected and fragile States, many of whom are faced with the challenges of terrorism. The impact of terrorism on development is illustrated by the recent abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls in Nigeria. Not only is that a horrifying experience for the girls and their families, it is an attack on their right to education. There is a need for counter-terrorism actors to deepen

engagement with United Nations peace and security actors and development entities in addressing the broader agenda.

In closing, Norway welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, and I would like to reiterate our commitment today. Norway will work to enhance not only our domestic counter-terrorism efforts, but also our efforts at the bilateral, regional and global levels.

Mr. Garcia (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like to thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing this meeting and applaud the efforts of Ambassador Halit Çevik, whose involvement has contributed so much to the success of this fourth revision of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I take this opportunity to convey a message of solidarity to Turkey following the absolutely odious and unacceptable abduction of its nationals and its diplomats in Iraq.

France aligns itself with the statement by the observer of the European Union, and I would like to add a few words.

Today, terrorism remains a major threat to international peace and security and is increasingly persistent and of a particularly changing nature. The international community is facing an increasingly diffuse, endogenous and violent phenomenon, as evidenced in particular in the self-radicalization process that led to the slaughter in Brussels on 24 May. It is fuelled by an increasingly effective control of communication networks by terrorist networks, which allows them to widely disseminate their message of hatred and to recruit and train an entire new generation of terrorists. We would like, in that respect, to firmly denounce the exploitation of religion for the sole purpose of justifying terrorists' actions. They are neither combatants nor jihadists, but criminals.

Increasingly mobile terrorist groups are managing to establish themselves and grow across entire regions. In West Africa, and in particular Nigeria, innocent victims are directly threatened by large-scale attacks or abject acts, such as the recent kidnapping of 200 young girls. France has mobilized its efforts, alongside the States of the region and other partners, at the Paris Summit for safety in Nigeria, held on 17 May.

France, like many other countries, is particularly concerned about the issue of volunteers seeking to join terrorist groups operating in conflict zones. They constitute a growing threat to their country of origin in the event of their return and more generally for the entire international community. We are pleased that the draft resolution we will adopt (A/68/L.50) calls on States to cooperate further to curb this phenomenon. It appropriately complements the measures we have taken to update our national anti-terrorist measures, in particular our plan to fight against violent radicalization and terrorist networks, which we adopted in April. Its main objectives are to impede the movement of terrorists, primarily towards Syria; ensure prevention, reintegration, counter-speech and counter-propaganda on the Internet; and strengthen the judicial capacity to act against terrorist networks.

France would like to further reiterate its commitment to the essential role played by the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. Indeed, we believe that the United Nations today remains a key player in mobilizing all Member States and strengthening the long-term capacity and consistency of their actions, given the new features of terrorism. That is why France gives its unconditional support to the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that regard, I would like to reiterate that it is important to continue to develop special efforts for the implementation of pillar IV of the Strategy, which is dedicated to human rights, for example by creating new projects concerning this issue, as there are currently too few. Promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights remain, in the long term, the best guarantee of the effectiveness of our fight against terrorism.

We are, in addition, particularly interested in multilateral initiatives such as those conducted by the Global Counterterrorism Forum. It is indeed engaged in an effective fight against terrorism, in line with current and emerging issues and based on increasingly closer international cooperation, which France is committed to supporting. In that vein, we look forward to the opening, next week, in Malta, of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, of which France is a founding member. The Institute will strengthen the capacity of countries in North and West Africa and the Horn of Africa by training a new generation of officials to deal with terrorism.

It is commendable that the General Assembly was once again able to come to a consensus on our common Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This is a happy reminder of the universality of the condemnation of terrorism and the continuously renewed mobilization that is justified by the threat. France remains determined to do everything possible to strengthen the United Nations fight against terrorism in all its forms.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/68/PV.95

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

95th plenary meeting
Thursday, 12 June 2014, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ashe ..... (Antigua and Barbuda)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 119 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/68/841)

Draft resolution (A/68/L.50)

Mr. Husy (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Since the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted, Al-Qaida's structure, methods and targets have changed. Al-Qaida no longer acts under the authority of a central command; instead, its affiliates carry out criminal attacks at the regional and local levels, very often in fragile or conflict-related situations. They sow fear and terror not only by killing and maiming people but also by taking hostages and spreading incitement to commit terrorist acts via the Internet. They do not hesitate to target the most vulnerable members of society, as we saw in the abduction of schoolgirls by Boko Haram in Nigeria, or places of symbolic significance, such as the Jewish Museum in Brussels. We are also very concerned about the latest developments in Iraq and Pakistan. And we should emphasize that terrorist attacks have spared neither the United Nations itself nor the International Committee of the Red Cross. Switzerland firmly condemns terrorism whatever its forms and manifestations. Our thoughts today go to the victims of such attacks and to their families.

As States and members of international and regional organizations, we should all ask ourselves whether we are adapting our responses and reactions to these new challenges effectively. In recent weeks, the States Members of the United Nations negotiated a new draft resolution on the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/68/L.50). Thanks to the Turkish delegation's effective facilitation, we were able to reach consensus. We believe that result will be an important step in enabling Member States to adapt their responses to the challenges that the fight against terrorism is facing.

That would not have been possible without the Secretary-General's excellent report on the activities of the United Nations system concerning the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/68/841). The report's analysis and its related observations and recommendations make it a valuable tool. In its contribution to ensuring that the threat of terrorism does not get a head start on us, Switzerland, as this year's Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), has made the fight against terrorism a major priority for the OSCE. A conference was held on the subject in Interlaken at the end of April with the aim of reinforcing the OSCE's role in addressing current terrorist challenges. The conference outcomes are unquestionably relevant to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. The written text of my statement summarizes the conference's conclusions on the three subjects on its agenda — first, the financing of terrorism, particularly kidnappings for ransom; secondly, respect for the principles of legality,

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transparency and accountability; and thirdly, foreign fighters. We hope to firm up those recommendations at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting to be held in Basel in December.

Switzerland will thus pursue its commitment to a holistic implementation of the Strategy, with an emphasis on showing that the goals of applying effective measures to combat terrorism and protecting human rights are not incompatible but complementary. We fully support the initiative of the group of States that has submitted new proposals aimed at strengthening both the legitimacy of the sanctions regime of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and the purview of the Committee's Ombudsperson, and at promoting the establishment of fair and transparent procedures. Switzerland will also support all measures to improve the coordination, effectiveness and legitimacy of the United Nations system's response to terrorism.

We would also like to mention a recent report from the Global Center on Cooperative Security, which produced just in time for the review of the Strategy is another excellent analysis on "Progress and Opportunities in Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy". Switzerland and Norway have supported that analysis, and we would like to thank the delegations that provided valuable suggestions for the preparation of the report, which is referred to as Blue Sky II. Inspired, inter alia, by that report, I would like to conclude by making several suggestions to the United Nations and its Member States.

First, on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Global Strategy, the United Nations could, with the participation of Member States, prepare a report on the global fight against terrorism that evaluates the risks and challenges posed by terrorism as well as the responsiveness and capacity of the United Nations and its States Members to deal with it appropriately. The report could serve as inspiration to the United Nations and its Members to develop goals and benchmarks for the global fight against terrorism in the coming years.

Secondly, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) should establish a plan of action over two years for transparent and balanced implementation of the Global Strategy and the achievement of the objectives set.

Thirdly, the United Nations and its Member States should coordinate their activities with other international organizations and bodies such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, while building on their respective comparative assets.

Fourthly, the United Nations and its Member States should further involve civil society and the private sector in their efforts aimed at establishing conditions that prevent radicalization and violent extremism. We welcome the establishment of the Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience (GCERF), in Geneva. Functioning as a public-private partnership, the GCERF will support initiatives and efforts to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in communities at risk.

Fifthly, the United Nations and its Member States should continue to implement in a balanced manner the four pillars of the Global Strategy and to coordinate their efforts by directing them towards the preventive aspects of the fight against terrorism. To that end, in June 2013, the CTITF office organized, in partnership with Switzerland, a conference of the national coordinators of the fight against terrorism in Geneva to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. We would also like to congratulate the President of the General Assembly for organizing an interactive dialogue on that particular issue yesterday.

Mr. Chulukhadze (Georgia): At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report contained (A/68/841) and to express our sincere appreciation for the multilateral efforts undertaken in drawing up draft resolution A/68/L.50.

We fully align ourselves with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union (see A/68/PV.94). However, I would nevertheless like to make a statement in my national capacity.

Terrorism has become one of the gravest threats to international peace and security in the modern world. Georgia opposes any form of terrorism and acknowledges the dangers caused by the growing threat of international terrorism, especially in its new forms.

In line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and in accordance with the four pillars thereof, Georgia carries out all the measures needed to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, to prevent and combat terrorism

and to build State capacity to fight terrorism, while ensuring full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Therefore, as a response to terrorist threats, Georgia actively cooperates with the relevant international and regional organizations. Georgia is an active member of the global anti-terrorist coalition and participates in multinational anti-terrorist, peacekeeping, search-and-rescue and humanitarian operations. Its participation in multinational counter-terrorism operations gives Georgia an opportunity to contribute to the activities of the counter-terrorist coalition. Within the frameworks of universal, regional, subregional and bilateral international instruments and on the basis of reciprocity, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs closely cooperates with the corresponding agencies of partner countries to tackle international terrorism.

Capacity-building in law enforcement agencies remains one of the Georgian Government's top priorities in its daily activities. In 2013, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs reorganized its counter-terrorist centre to strengthen the State's counter-terrorism capability and established additional regional units to enhance its efficiency in different parts of our country.

Thanks to all the necessary steps my Government has taken over the last few years, the territory of Georgia where the Georgian authorities exercise their full jurisdiction and effective control enjoys a low incidence of terrorism-related crimes. On the other hand, the Russian-occupied territories of Georgia continue to represent a major challenge for my Government in our efforts to combat terrorism. Those areas, like black holes, can serve as safe harbours for terrorist and other radical and extremist groups that have the potential to destabilize the security situation in the entire region.

The Government of Georgia pays particular attention to the issues of radiation security. Our aim is to prevent any smuggling of radioactive materials across our borders. To date, all major highway and road systems are fully equipped with radiation detection equipment.

In order to facilitate comprehensive management of chemical-, biological-, radiological- or nuclear-related (CBRN) risks, the Government of Georgia has created a national CBRN strategy, which was adopted in 2013. Its action plan will soon be completed.

Georgia is party to 13 international anti-terrorism conventions and the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and its amending Protocol. Provisions of the aforementioned conventions have already been incorporated into Georgian legislation; indeed, all the terrorism-related crimes set forth in those conventions have been made crimes under the Georgian criminal code.

On 25 March 2013, Georgia signed the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism. The Parliament of Georgia will soon ratify the Convention. Furthermore, we are also considering the possibility of ratifying the remaining five international legal instruments on anti-terrorism recently adopted by the United Nations.

At the bilateral level, Georgia has to date concluded international agreements with 21 countries aimed at bolstering cooperation in the fight against serious crime, including terrorism. In addition, we are in the process of proposing similar draft agreements to other partner nations. The adoption of Georgia's law on combating terrorism, the new criminal procedure code and the relevant changes to the criminal code have served as an effective legal basis for preventing and combating terrorism.

In 2014, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the amendments to the criminal code of Georgia according to which certain acts of terrorism were criminalized and, for the already existing terrorism-related crimes, greater criminal responsibility was assigned. Those amendments are in line with the relevant United Nations and other international best practices.

In March 2014, the Government of Georgia approved the national strategy for combating money laundering and terrorism financing, which provides strategic direction in the process of fighting the financing of terrorism. The strategy has its own action plan that defines proactive measures and the agencies responsible for them, together with the exact time frames necessary for implementing specific actions provided for by the strategy.

The Government of Georgia remains committed to advancing the institutionalization of security policy planning. In 2014, in accordance with the most recent constitutional changes, the State Security and Crisis Management Council was established as an advisory body to the chief executive, namely, the Prime Minister. The Council is the national agency responsible for elaborating national security concept documents

and monitoring the implementation process of tasks required by the relevant Georgian legislation.

In the near future, the State Security and Crisis Management Council plans to elaborate a new counter-terrorism strategy and streamline concept documents related to counter-terrorism. For that purpose, the Council plans to establish ad hoc working groups. All the relevant stakeholders, including civil society representatives, will be involved in the process.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever they are committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We would like to commend Ambassador Çevik of Turkey and his team for ably steering us toward consensus on the review of the Strategy. We strongly believe that the General Assembly must continue to play a key role in shaping the work of the United Nations to combat terrorism, along with the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

We appreciate that this biennial review again puts strong emphasis on the perspective of the victims. We hope that the new United Nations online portal will make a contribution to supporting victims of terrorism. In addition, victims must be given a stronger voice in our efforts. They are the ones who can send the most powerful message against terrorists' destructive message of violence.

Eight years after the adoption of the Strategy, the toll of deaths, injuries and destruction caused by terrorism continues to rise. Most recently, we received news of the brazen kidnapping at the Turkish Consulate in Mosul, Iraq. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families, and we hope for their speedy and safe release.

The phenomenon of terrorism is rapidly evolving at the local, regional and international levels. The international community must act with greater resolve to fight that scourge. We note with satisfaction the increased capacity within the various parts of the United Nations system to assist Member States in that regard. Ultimately, however, it is primarily us States that must fully commit ourselves to implementing all four pillars of the Strategy.

Our greatest challenge remains pillar I, or measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Many such conditions are at the very core of what the Organization is supposed to address, whether in a counter-terrorism context or otherwise, including unresolved conflicts, the lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, discrimination and exclusion, and socioeconomic marginalization. The state of our response to global terrorism therefore also reflects more generally on the state of the United Nations as a whole. If we want to do more than just fight the symptoms of terrorism, then we need true commitment by all Member States to cooperate fully in all the relevant United Nations organs. That requires in particular greater cooperation in the Security Council, which has been unable to effectively address a number of violent conflicts, partly due to the use or threat of use of the veto. It also requires a greater sense of urgency and willingness to take bold decisions in the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

The draft resolution (A/68/L.50) on the review of the Strategy reaffirms that terrorism is aimed at, among other things, the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. Governments actively involved in combating terrorism must ensure that they do not unwittingly contribute to the same outcome. Overly broad domestic definitions of terrorism may threaten the right to freedom of expression and association. Mass surveillance, both domestically and abroad, may undermine the right to privacy. Law enforcement and military operations often walk a fine line between the legitimate targeting of terrorists and unacceptable risks for innocent civilians. Governments must therefore scrupulously abide by the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality in their actions, principles that underpin both human rights law and international humanitarian law.

That is also an important responsibility for the United Nations. As we move towards more effective assistance and capacity-building for States, thanks in part to the efforts of Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, assistance providers must pay the utmost attention to ensuring that human rights are fully integrated into their activities.

The importance of the human rights dimension also requires the United Nations to lead by example in

areas where it undertakes concrete measures to prevent and combat terrorism. In that regard, we commend the progress made by the Security Council in improving fair and clear procedures for the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, thanks in particular to the valuable work of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost. Given the positive experience gained in that particular context, it is now time for the Council to further improve listing and delisting procedures in other sanctions regimes as well.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to express Colombia's condemnation of the recent kidnapping of members of the Turkish Consulate in Mosul, Iraq. I express the deepest sympathy of the Government and people of Colombia to the hostages, their families and the Turkish authorities.

Unfortunately, recent events such as those in Nigeria and Pakistan have attested once again to the brutality and inhumanity of those who resort to terrorism. Their increasingly cruel methods demonstrate their total disregard for any ethics or human value system.

Colombia rejects and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as it cannot be justified under any circumstance.

Colombia thanks Ambassador Halit Çevik of Turkey and his entire team for having led this review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Colombia associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/68/PV.94) and welcomes the presentation of the Secretary-General's report (A/68/841). The report highlights the progress made and the challenges we must face in order to advance towards a full implementation of the Strategy.

The diversity and complexity of this criminal activity, which knows no boundaries and has proven its capacity to have a profound affect on dissimilar States and societies, obliges us to take comprehensive actions that take into account the transformations and evolution in the nature of terrorist acts.

Unfortunately, the many terrorist acts serve to demonstrate that it is counterproductive to associate terrorism with countries, regions, religions, cultures or specific social conditions. As we are reminded by the Secretary-General in his report (A/68/841), no area of the world is immune to terrorism, and the future course of the threat continues to be unpredictable. With the Global Strategy, the international community has a tool that makes it possible to adopt concrete actions to respond to this scourge, but its success depends upon its comprehensive and balanced implementation in the various pillars.

The Secretary-General's report calls our attention to the need to redouble our efforts in the implementation of pillar I of the Strategy, on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Colombia believes it is necessary for us to respond to that call and move its implementation forward, while always basing our actions on the acknowledgement that none of those conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

As our deliberations on the draft resolution (A/68/L.50) that emerged from the fourth review have shown, one of the main points of the debate is related to the payment of rewards for kidnapping and extorsion as a means of financing. We need more information and analysis and we must avoid generalizations and measures that do not correspond to the particularities of the phenomenon in the different regions of the world. When considering the question, it is important to bear in mind that any victim of kidnapping runs the imminent risk of losing his life or at least temporarily losing his freedom, and human life and freedom are internationally recognized values and rights and must be respected and protected. Therefore, the State and the international community, in addressing kidnapping, should take measures that do not turn victims or those who are trying to defend them into a criminals.

The fight against terrorism must be carried out in strict compliance with the obligations established under international law, including the various existing international instruments in the area of terrorism, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. That is a sine qua non condition for the global fight against terrorism to produce the results we want.

As many before me have said, Colombia also considers care for the victims of terrorism and the rights of those victims as a fundamental pillar in the defence and promotion of human rights. Victims of terrorism must be heard, and States must have mechanisms to protect and promote their rights and to recognize those rights. I am convinced that by launching the United Nations portal on victims of terrorism we are making progress towards the visibility and care that victims call for.

The fight against terrorism will not be entirely successful if we lack a general convention on international terrorism. True, it has taken us many years to adopt a convention. However, not only our discussions, but also increasingly the seriousness of international terrorism demands that we take definitive decisions, no matter how difficult they may be.

While the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy rests with States, strengthening national institutions and capabilities, generating and disseminating specialized knowledge, sharing among ourselves experiences and best practices and having efficient mechanisms to exchange information are some of the areas in which we must intensify international cooperation.

In that context, Colombia, together with the United Nations, organized in Bogota an international conference on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies. At that conference, we were able to make considerable progress in the discussion on the development and implementation of counter-terrorism strategies with regard to their complementarity with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in order to achieve greater coordination and consistency in the activities carried out at all levels. At the same time, as an illustration of our commitment to the counter-terrorism legal infrastructure of the United Nations, on 30 September we deposited our instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

The struggle against terrorism will not be completely successful if we continue to lack a general convention on international terrorism. It has taken years of discussion to adopt such a convention, and the seriousness of terrorism has been critical for all of us. As I have said, I think that it is important that we continue in that effort and that we focus on achieving it. Based on a firm commitment and a political will that the tools be used and the standards be applied, all States, with the technical cooperation of international bodies and within the international counter-terrorism legal framework, must develop and strengthen national legislation, create institutions to provide financial information and intelligence, and have effective mechanisms to exchange financial information. It is crucial that we have effective frameworks of international cooperation that make it possible to deprive terrorists of their sources of financing and the economic infrastructure that makes it possible for them to operate and carry out their acts.

One of Colombia's biggest concerns is the diversion of weapons to non-State actors and their harmful impact on the global fight against terrorism. Weapons illegally traded and transferred do not merely have a negative effect on a population's human rights, but they exacerbate conflicts, undermine the stability and security of States and have a very close connection with terrorism. In that respect, the Arms Trade Treaty is a very important step forward. With its early entry into force and full implementation, it will help us in carrying out activities aimed at preventing and eliminating terrorism.

Dialogue, cooperation and concerted efforts are essential for civilized coexistence free from the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate the President for presiding over our work during the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to combat the scourge of terrorism. I would also like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, for his efforts and professionalism in facilitating the consultations on the document (A/68/L.50) that will round out the work of our review meeting on the Strategy.

I should like to take this opportunity to condemn in the strongest terms the kidnapping of the Consul-General of Turkey in Mosul, Iraq.

Senseless acts of indiscriminate terrorism occur in various regions of the world, as was recently the case in Nigeria and Pakistan. At this painful time, on behalf of my country, I express my condolences to the families of the victims and to the Nigerian and Pakistani Governments.

The Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and underscores that nothing can justify a terrorist attack. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/68/841), in which he shares his assessment, his vision and his recommendations, which deserve our full attention and which inspired comments from my delegation.

We take this opportunity to welcome yesterday's launch of the web portal on victims of terrorism, which will be a useful tool in raising awareness about the needs of victims and in preventing terrorist attacks.

The adoption of the Strategy, in September 2006, was a watershed moment in focusing the international community's efforts in combatting terrorism. The Strategy recognizes the importance of joining efforts based on an plan of action focused on four pillars.

Terrorism has been exacerbated by several factors, including its links with transborder drug, weapons and human trafficking. Terrorist networks have found in such trafficking activities a source of funding for their actions to disrupt the peace of citizens and to destabilize States. That requires action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels.

At the national level, Morocco first strengthened its legal toolkit and its penal code by amending existing laws and by enacting others in order to address the new scourge. We therefore adopted a comprehensive and proactive strategy, combining suppression through mobilization of the security and justice services and prevention by adopting political, economic, social, cultural, education and religious reforms.

In that context, the Kingdom of Morocco continues to strengthen its legal toolkit and its institutional and operational provisions in order to effectively fight against the terrorist threat. Morocco's experience in combating terrorism demonstrates that citizens' respect for the steps taken by the national authorities and their complete condemnation of extremism and violence as a means to achieve political goals are fundamental to the success of any counter-terrorism strategy. Our strong commitment to continuing democratic reform, with human development as a central pillar, and to the principles of tolerance, dialogue and respect for human rights has enabled Morocco to develop an appropriate response to violent extremism.

Morocco remains convinced that national efforts alone are not enough to deal with the comprehensive change in terrorism. In fact, terrorist groups continue to adapt their modus operandi and now have a more regional agenda. They are forging even closer ties with transnational organized crime networks and make malicious and greater use of information and communication technologies.

Morocco believes that terrorism is a world phenomenon that requires a global response, coupled with and supported by robust subregional and regional cooperation. My delegation therefore welcomes with satisfaction the statement of the Secretary-General that progress has been made in implementing the Strategy and that countries are committed to helping others in their fight against terrorism, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

We welcome the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), in particular the development of a matrix of projects so as to provide the necessary assistance and appropriate human resource training in cooperation with Member States. It is a practical tool for which appropriate and adequate financial resources must be ensured and made available. My country is ready to join the efforts of the CTITF to achieve that new guidance. On this occasion, we welcome the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's support for the Centre. Morocco also welcomes Saudi Arabia's fruitful cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

In his report the Secretary-General notes that factions affiliated with Al-Qaida that aspire to establish a State stretching from the Atlantic to the Nile and other groups active in West Africa that are involved in destabilizing Mali have joined Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. That statement is of concern to my country and to the entire region of the Sahel and the Maghreb. That increasingly evident trend in the Sahel and Maghreb region, to which Morocco belongs, has allowed terrorist networks to acquire the financial and technological means to increase their area of operations to the point of threatening the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the States of the region.

It is therefore not only necessary but also essential to step up cooperation and information-exchange efforts among the countries of the Sahel and the Maghreb so as to effectively fight together against the destabilizing activities of terrorists. The fight against that scourge in its new manifestation requires the sincere commitment of all States of the region to the global fight. We must continue to be vigilant, pay more attention to the issue and make use of every opportunity for coordination and concerted action to combat terrorism in the region.

In that context, Morocco organized the international Workshop on Transnational Security Challenges in the South Atlantic in Rabat in October 2012 in the context of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Moreover, in November 2013, we hosted the second regional ministerial conference on border security among the

Sahel and Mahgreb States. The conference concluded with the adoption of the Rabat Declaration, whose recommendations seek to ensure border security in the countries of North Africa and the Sahel-Sahara region on the basis of a coordinated and comprehensive approach that takes the political, operational and development dimensions into account.

Along the same lines, the Kingdom of the Morocco believes that the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel is of great relevance in overcoming the many challenges facing the Sahel. In the context of a coordinated response to the many scourges that threaten that area of Africa, Morocco participated actively in the first ministerial meeting for the establishment of a coordination platform of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, held in Bamako on 5 November. My country fully supports that strategy.

As the report of the Secretary-General points out, since the previous review meeting, there has been malicious exploitation of the Internet and social networks by terrorists, who use them to glorify terrorism, to recruit and to incite and promote radicalization. That is likely to jeopardize international counter-terrorism efforts. Particular attention should therefore be paid to that new challenge.

In addition, terrorists look for hotbeds of tensions and State and institutional fragility to establish themselves there, to spread terror, to proliferate, to propagate and, ultimately, to destabilize States and regions.

In that regard, I would like to note that the Kingdom of Morocco held the first experts meeting on foreign terrorist fighters on 14 and 15 May in Marrakesh in the context of its joint initiative with the Netherlands within the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Its aim is to address that new situation by focusing on the police, border control, justice and information-exchange aspects. Similarly, Morocco has joined the Brussels plan of action for the establishment of a strategy to combat the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in Syria.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Morocco, which is committed to protecting religious and cultural expression and to strengthening the values of tolerance and moderation prescribed by Islam, condemns extremism and religious politicization. In order to respond to the spread of radical extremism and thwart those who support radicalism, terrorism, dissent, disintegration and misleading doctrines, the Kingdom of Morocco has undertaken religious cooperation with African countries since November 2013. It consists of training African Muslim leaders and of teaching them the norms and values of moderate Islam, promoting balance, moderation, tolerance, coexistence and acceptance of others. Six hundred Muslim leaders from Mali and the same number from Guinea and from Côte d'Ivoire have already benefited from that cooperation. The goal is to help African countries to develop their potential and to disseminate the values of tolerance, coexistence, harmony and unity among the various sectors of a society, as well as coexistence among religions. The Muslim leaders who have received training will, in turn, become trainers of other Muslim leaders in their countries.

I will conclude by reaffirming that Morocco is ready to share its experience, and in particular to cooperate on the training of Muslim leaders of the other countries of the region. Such cooperation is part of our conviction that terrorism can be tackled only through cooperation and the joint efforts of all.

Mr. Rishchynski (Canada) (*spoke in French*): I would like to underscore the solidarity of the people and Government of Canada with the people and Government of Turkey in the situation they are experiencing concerning their citizens in Mosul, Iraq.

(*spoke in English*)

The kidnapping — and let us be clear that that is what this is — of 49 diplomatic representatives and their dependents, including children, as well as 39 other Turkish citizens, is a reprehensible act that deserves the condemnation of all 193 States of the United Nations. We call for the immediate release and safe return of those being held captive.

We are gathered here this afternoon to renew our collective commitment to the multilateral fight against terrorism. Canada continues to believe in the value and importance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We have been and continue to be closely involved in the United Nations effort to combat terror as an enemy we all face in common. No State in the Hall is immune to it.

The Strategy has evolved and come a long way over the past seven or eight years. We salute the leadership shown by partner facilitators in the past as well as the present — Guatemala, Bangladesh and

the current facilitator, Turkey — and thank them for their leadership in advancing the terms of reference of the Strategy, which has seen a positive evolution since the first facilitation in 2008. Canada was pleased to participate as a facilitator in 2012. We know from personal experience that the role of facilitator is a very difficult and challenging one and requires adroit handling of sensitive negotiations. That comes with the territory, but we must continue to move forward to a positive conclusion by expanding the foundations and depth of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Government of Turkey and its Permanent Mission to the United Nations for ably guiding the 2014 review.

We have made strides towards better coordination in fighting terrorism here at the United Nations, and we have also done so in a variety of regional and other multilateral forums, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. But we in Canada believe we cannot be complacent but must redouble our efforts to confront this phenomenon wherever we find it. We must focus on greater coherence and coordination; we must avoid duplication and focus on how we can better work together, in our regions and multilaterally, to combat terror. I would again like to congratulate the current facilitator and all those who have worked on the text of today's draft resolution (A/68/L.50). We salute them for their work and look forward to our ongoing collaboration with the United Nations system in making the fight against terrorism a successful one.

Mr. Mesa-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by expressing the solidarity of the Government of Peru with the people and Government of Turkey concerning the acts of terrorism and the suffering they have endured on Iraqi territory.

The delegation of Peru associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Peru considers the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be vitally important. For us it represents a particularly concrete issue, owing to the fact that for more than two decades our country suffered from violence triggered by two terrorist groups that wreaked enormous human and material damage on it.

Peru dealt with terrorism by implementing a policy geared towards eradicating violence and strengthening civic values and public safety — namely, the seventh policy under our national accord. It also committed us to strengthening public order, promoting a civic culture of respect for the law and for norms of coexistence and raising public awareness against violence in a context of social stability. That policy is consistent with the Strategy's four pillars — first, in addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; secondly, in preventing and combating it; thirdly, in increasing our national capacity to fight it; and fourthly, in ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in the fight against this scourge. In that context, Peru has given its support to the victims of terrorism, in particular by developing a high-level multisectoral commission for reparations and national reconciliation for victims, specifically by launching programmes for victims in the areas of recognition of their civil rights, scholarships and training, and mental health care. The State also promotes collective reparations programmes that include improving community sanitation, restoring infrastructure and supporting resettlement and access to housing. We have also instituted symbolic and financial reparations for victims and their relatives with permanent physical or mental disabilities, including victims of sexual violation.

However, we believe that by taking advantage of new information technologies in a global environment that is conducive to establishing transnational networks, some of those terrorists have been able to re-establish themselves. This is a new manifestation of a phenomenon that transcends borders, and in that regard we understand that the fight against terrorism requires strong, dynamic international cooperation in bilateral, regional and global arenas. In that regard, since the first Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, held in Lima in 1996, Peru has advocated for collective action in multilateral forums, particularly the Organization of American States. We are party to 17 international counter-terrorism instruments. And we have supported the General Assembly's adoption of resolutions on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the rule of law at the national and international level and on measures to combat terrorism.

We consider combating terrorist financing to be a major priority, which we work on through Peru's financial intelligence unit. We should emphasize that in this particular area Peru has had access to international cooperation provided by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with has enabled us to explore new possibilities for cooperation. Peru's efforts in this area are aimed mainly at facilitating

cooperation with countries in our region that have been affected by the presence of small terrorist groups similar to the kind we have suffered from in Peru. This in line with the the Strategy's pillar I, which is specifically aimed at combating conditions conducive to the spread of this phenomenon.

Since terrorism was defeated in Peru, a very small group of people has been trying to mislead public opinion, operating through sham organizations pretending to be genuine representatives with public influence that they do not possess. They say they want a general amnesty for terrorists who were sentenced in Peruvian courts in full respect for human rights and due process; yet they refuse to renounce their ideology, which is that of the Shining Path terrorist movement and which essentially justifies the crimes against human rights and humanity that they committed for more than two decades.

Such groups linked to terrorism have exploited the rights and freedoms of association and expression, like other terrorists around the world. We therefore welcomed Security Council resolution 2129 (2013), which recognizes how important it is that States prevent the use of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations by and for terrorists. We think it is vital that this be reflected in the current fourth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that regard, and thanks to the evidence produced through their skills in financial investigation, in the past few weeks the National Police of Peru, working with the Public Prosecutor's Office and with strict respect for human rights and due process, has arrested various members of an organization that is a front for terrorists and who are now being legally investigated.

I would conclude by pointing to the need counting on a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that, while safeguarding the balance among its four pillars, shows that the international community is capable of responding collectively to the challenges that the scourge of terrorism has brought through its various manifestations, many of them transnational in nature. The effectiveness of the Global Strategy is directly related to the ability to act multilaterally on the basis of international law to promptly address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/68/841) and the information contained therein. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the facilitator, the Permanent Representative of Turkey, for his work.

China strongly condemns the recent kidnapping that took place in Mosul, Iraq. Diplomatic missions were attacked and diplomats were kidnapped. We ask that the hostages be released immediately.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a very important consensus document for Member States in the area of counter-terrorism in recent years. The international community has undertaken tremendous efforts in combatting terrorism and it has achieved a great deal. However, terrorism still poses a very serious threat to international peace and security. There have also emerged new means and ways of committing acts of terrorism. With regard to the how to implement the Strategy, I would like to make the following observations.

First, we must have zero tolerance towards terrorism. Terrorism is the enemy of humankind. Any terrorist acts, for whatever purposes, based on whatever motivations, perpetrated by whomever, whenever and wherever, are serious criminal acts that can never be justified. The international community must take a clear stand against terrorism, separatism and extremism. No country should practice a double standard on the issue, using its self-interest to shift its positions or using political machinations to shelter terrorists or connive with them.

Secondly, terrorist organizations and terrorists are taking advantage of information and communications technology, including the use of the Internet, to incite, recruit, fund or plot terrorist attacks. The international community should have a heightened awareness of that new trend. Resolution 2129 (2013) and subsequent United Nations resolutions have outlined clear requirements in that regard. States should fully implement such resolutions and enhance exchange of information and cooperation.

Thirdly, combating terrorism should be done in line with the Charter of the United Nations, its purposes and principles and on the basis of other recognized norms of international relations. There should be respect for the independence, unity and territorial integrity of countries. We should advocate in favour of dialogue, understanding and exchange between different civilizations and religions. We should never link terrorism with a particular region, particular country or particular religion.

Fourthly, in fighting terrorism, we need to take a holistic approach to combating both root causes and symptoms We need to narrow the poverty gap in society, address social injustice, properly handle regional conflicts, fight against splittism and extremism and suppress the spread of hatred and intolerance. Those are all very important elements in fighting terrorism at the international level. The international community should attend to the root causes of terrorism and implement, in a holistic and balanced manner, implement the Global Strategy.

Fifthly, the United Nations has a larger role to play. The United Nations should advocate in favour of a very clear-cut standard on what is right and what is wrong. We should build consensus and scale up cooperation in the areas of anti-terrorism and capacity-building. We support the General Assembly and the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council, based on their respective mandates, in stepping up cooperation and coordination and actively participating in the implementation of the Global Strategy.

China is a victim of terrorism. The East Turkestan terrorist organization, spearheaded by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, poses the most serious threat faced by the Chinese Government in terms of national security. We shall continue to take very firm measures to resolutely fight terrorism. We have the determination, confidence and capability to suppress the spread of terrorism. Whatever their purposes or motivations, those terrorists will never succeed.

China will continue to proactively implement the Global Strategy. We will actively participate in international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. We are ready and willing to engage with the relevant countries to exchange information in the areas of legislation and enforcement, information sharing, and the extradition and repatriation of terrorist suspects.

Let us join hands and work together to fight the global scourge of terrorism.

Ms. Paik Ji-ah (Republic of Korea): I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important set of meetings to assess the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy since its third review, in 2012.

I would also like to commend Ambassador Halit Çevik for his leadership during the review process, including his efforts to develop the draft resolution (A/68/L.50).

At the outset, we would like to express our solidarity with the Government and people of Turkey in the light of the recent terrorist attacks committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq. We strongly condemn all acts of terrorism and stress that all hostages must be released safely and immediately.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report (A/68/841), terrorism is bred from poor governance, discrimination, political exclusion and inequitable economic development. As is often said, a complex problem requires a comprehensive approach. In that regard, my delegation concurs with the Secretary-General's observations that the most effective means for combating terrorism is to achieve the United Nations core goals of strengthening peace and security, promoting human development, adhering to human rights and the rule of law and implementing the Strategy's four pillars in a balanced manner.

To that end, effective coordination and cooperation during that ongoing process is essential. We therefore support the three-pronged approach of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to enhance cooperation and coherence of the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. Effective measures should be taken to address the key components of terrorism, namely, terrorists, weapons, funding and networks.

First, a range of efforts are needed in order to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Ir particular, investing in youth, education and human rights is critical. The Republic of Korea therefore strongly supports the Secretary-General's Global Education First and Rights Up Front initiatives. The Republic of Korea, for its part, has doubled its official development assistance since 2007, including in the areas of poverty reduction, human resources development and sustainable development.

Secondly, deterring the illicit flow of weapons and terrorist financing is another important task. As such, the Republic of Korea looks forward to the pivotal role of the Arms Trade Treaty. We are also planning to submit a biennial resolution on combating illicit brokering activities, alongside Australia, during the next session of the General Assembly. It is also crucial that all the relevant recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force be fully implemented.

Thirdly, defending porous borders and breaking regional and global terrorist networks requires concerted, transnational efforts. In particular, fostering and institutionalizing operational and intelligence cooperation among regional countries is key to counter-terrorism.

As the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Republic of Korea is of the view that denying access to weapons of mass destruction to terrorists should be an integral part of our collective counter-terrorism strategy. The high-level Security Council open debate (see S/PV.7169), held on 7 May, and the presidential statement (S/PRST/2014/7) adopted provided the momentum to further strengthen international efforts in that area. We will continue to build on the constructive suggestions by Member States to contribute to the development of a comprehensive strategy to realize the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Secondly, as the host of the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace last year, the Republic of Korea has been making sustained efforts to effectively address the emerging threats stemming from the malicious use of information and communication technology. Taking advantage of the high connectivity, terrorists are learning to make bombs, recruit new members and wage propaganda wars through the Internet. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague last March, the Republic of Korea, proposed joint efforts to tackle the emerging threat of cyber terrorism against nuclear facilities.

We are also currently working closely with CTITF to develop a project that will strengthen the cyber security of developing countries to combat potential cyber terrorism. We look forward to working with interested Member States on that matter.

As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stressed, terrorism has no nationality and respects no borders. Our response must also reflect the amorphous and ubiquitous nature of terrorism today. The Republic of Korea will continue to play its part in promoting the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Lerena (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/68/841) on the progress made on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for organizing this event and for its continuing efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation among Member States, as well as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) for the constructive dialogue it has maintained with my country, especially after the review visit to Argentina in November 2012.

In line with the decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council and the commitments made in this context, Argentina condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism are a threat not only to international peace and security, but also to human life, and endanger the stability, consolidation of democracy and socioeconomic development of nations.

The Republic of Argentina was a victim of international terrorism on two occasions — in 1992 and 1994. Within a few days, on 18 July, it will be 20 years since the second attack against the headquarters of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association. For that reason, our country was one of the first to draw attention to the need for the international community to establish clear definitions to lay the foundation for a policy of cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism.

The deplorable events of 11 September 2001 not only undermined the values and principles of States — democracy and freedoms — but they led us to recognize that the fight against terrorism required an integrated and multidimensional approach to act on the broadest level possible of cooperation in order to address the threat in all its forms and manifestations.

Argentina believes that multilateral frameworks, especially the United Nations, the Secretariat and the Task Force, the Security Council, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, as well as regional and subregional bodies, are the most appropriate forums to coordinate the necessary collaboration and cooperation among States to prevent and eradicate terrorism. Therefore, although we support the initiatives of other multilateral forums to combat terrorism, we do so only to the extent that their actions and principles contribute to strengthening those that guide the work of the United Nations, as the basis of a global governance based on genuine multilateralism. We must make sure that all the actors committed to the struggle against terrorism act effectively with each other, not in a competitive way but with mutual respect,

cooperation and in recognition of their respective capacities.

Argentina's efforts to prevent and eradicate terrorism is based on full respect for the rule of law, the fundamental guarantees of the various branches of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. My country's experience since the emergence of State terrorism has made Argentina a very active player in the promotion of human rights. It is therefore not acceptable for us to think that human rights violations can be accepted under certain circumstances.

To the extent that efforts to combat terrorism are based on an efficient criminal justice process that respects the principles of the rule of law and human rights, ensuring that justice and defendants' rights are protected, it can provide a peaceful, responsible and legitimate response to the phenomenon of terrorism. In that way, under pillar IV of the Global Strategy, we can contribute to avoiding an escalation of violence and the use of force in a way that runs counter to the protection of the individual and due process and we can strengthen society's commitment to the rule of law and human rights and to the essential understanding and support required by victims of terrorism.

Argentina believes that policies that promote full respect for human rights and policies of social inclusion for the most vulnerable segments of the population are the essential cement to address the conditions that lead to the spread of terrorism, as stated under pillar I of the Global Strategy. No transnational crime or terrorist group will find fertile ground in societies that incorporate high levels of peaceful coexistence and social justice in their development.

In that connection, Argentina supports the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as an initiative designed to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions. A phenomenon such as terrorism, owing to its complexity and transnational nature, requires that there be agreement among countries in the area of criminal justice and counter-terrorism measures to ensure that there is no impunity, that there is full respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism and so that we may help to compensate the victims of terrorist acts.

However, faced with the lamentable acts that occurred in Pakistan and Iraq in recent days, we must conclude that emphasis should be placed on facilitating the factors necessary for each country's development of its own capabilities to create its own model to confront the threat of terrorism. Each culture and each country must develop its own experience, with the support of the entire international community. We think that this is where the full development of the pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy becomes crucial.

Ms. King (Australia): I thank Ambassador Y. Halit Çevik and his team for leading this important review to a strong consensus outcome.

Australia condemns the terrorist attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq and the taking hostage of the Turkish Consulate staff. We urge ISIL to release the hostages immediately. The international community should cooperate to secure their safe release. We also express our solidarity with the people and the Governments of Pakistan and Nigeria for the recent deplorable attacks by terrorists in those countries.

Those events show that the threat of terrorism today is more complex than ever before. Terrorist organizations are dynamic — they are able to move and recruit quickly, communicate ideas and methods instantaneously and mobilize resources globally. Terrorist and violent extremist groups have shown the intent and ability to exploit vulnerabilities in some societies — namely, intercommunal tension, illiteracy and weak governance — to radicalize those societies for their own ideological and financial gains.

The comprehensive approach in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is more important than ever in tackling those evolving challenges. Since 2006, we have seen significant global successes in law enforcement, including prosecution and convictions. We must continue to strengthen criminal justice systems and international legal cooperation while protecting human rights and, at the same time, we need to focus more on prevention.

The fourth review of the Global Strategy importantly identifies preventive steps to address the aforementioned emerging challenges.

The rapid growth in kidnap for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorist groups to finance their operations or to gain concessions is one of the most serious global challenges. There is good and growing evidence that the payment of ransoms by States both

dramatically increases the amount in ransom that is demanded and results in further targeting of the citizens of those States, thus perpetuating the problem. The safety and welfare of the victim is naturally a paramount concern. However, ransoms are financing terrorism, and we need international solidarity to suppress the practice. The Counter-Terrorism Committee special meeting later this year will be an important opportunity to share experiences in preventing kidnap for ransom by terrorists.

The review of the Global Strategy this year has put the spotlight on measures to address the conditions conducive to terrorism. There is increasing recognition that Governments can do better to counter the violent extremism that can lead to terrorism.

National strategies countering violent extremism are important. Australia's strategy leverages community policing and strong partnerships with community leaders and civil society to build social cohesion and community resilience. We have heard a lot today about the challenge posed by foreign fighters, including about law enforcement measures that we can take in response to the threat. In tackling the phenomenon, countering violent extremism in communities must complement law enforce efforts. States and communities can marginalize the appeal of fighting in a foreign country, including by improving understanding of the consequences of joining conflict and by encouraging people to pursue alternative non-violent avenues to assist affected populations in those countries, such as the humanitarian effort.

The international community must work together urgently to address the threat posed by foreign fighters. If we do not tackle that together and head on, it will have unquantifiable consequences on global security and development.

A crucial preventive tool in the global tool box is the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Several delegations today have made the point that, while Al-Qaida's senior leadership and central structure may be weaker, its motivational appeal is as strong as ever. We see that in the proliferation of dispersed Al-Qaida affiliates and splinter groups that take advantage of local conflicts or situations of limited State control.

The Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee continues to ensure its sanctions list targets the contemporary nature of the threat, as seen in its recent actions in adding Boko Haram and three splinter groups of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb to the list. Those actions demonstrate, too, how the sanctions regime supports States in preventing Al-Qaida-linked terrorists from posing a threat within their borders and regions. But the full potential of the regime to target and counter the Al-Qaida network will be realized only if Member States work with the Committee to identify who are the key enablers within the network that should be subject to the sanctions.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, sanctions and other international measures can be effective only if they are implemented widely. Many States continue to require technical assistance to implement their obligations. Australia will continue to work to strengthen the capacity of partners in South-East Asia, South Asia and Africa. As the Deputy Foreign Minister of Indonesia said this morning, the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, established after the terrorist bombings in Bali in 2002, has now trained over 15,000 officers.

Dedicated regional facilities are vital to implementing the Global Strategy. The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) also plays a substantial role by working with the United Nations to promote the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and facilitating capacity-building in a practical, responsive and dynamic way. Australia co-chair with Indonesia the new GCTF Working Group on Detention and Reintegration, which was established in April to address the challenge of terrorist prisoners during detention and their reintegration into society after their release.

But more than any other organization, the United Nations plays a unique and leading role in strengthening awareness and implementation of international norms and standards in countering terrorism and in mobilizing the technical assistance necessary for global efforts to be effective.

We welcome the Secretary-General's steps to integrate peace and security issues, including counter-terrorism, with activities to promote social and economic development. The United Nations must adapt to the contemporary threat posed by terrorism through such a strategic and coordinated approach. The fourth biennial review of the implementation of the Strategy will support the United Nations in that endeavour.

Mr. Vieira Silva (Brazil): At the outset, let me express Brazil's sympathy for all victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We are deeply

concerned with the latest developments in Iraq and hope that calm will be restored promptly in that country. We wish to express our solidarity with the Turkish people and the Turkish diplomatic corps, given the recent abductions that have taken place in Mosul.

I wish to congratulate the President and the facilitator of the discussions on the draft resolution before us (A/68/L.50), Ambassador Y. Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, and his diligent team, for the successful conclusion of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy review. I would also like to align ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Costa Rica, who spoke on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (see A/68/PV.94).

We welcome the draft resolution as an opportunity for the United Nations to keep the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy "relevant and contemporary in the light of emerging new threats and evolving trends of international terrorism", as stated in paragraph 3. The draft resolution reaffirms the importance of the Strategy and its four pillars and the central role of the General Assembly in addressing the issue. Brazil fully supports the Strategy's comprehensive and integrated perspective in preventing and fighting terrorism.

We reaffirm our commitment to a holistic approach to fighting terrorism, which is a multidimensional threat that must be combated, taking into account the diversity of its underlying causes. Brazil emphasizes that the fight against terrorism should make use of all means compatible with the Charter of the United Nations and other norms of international law and must not take place at the expense of due process, human rights, international humanitarian law and civil liberties. Violent extremism, radicalism and violence often stem from protracted social, political, economic and cultural exclusion, amidst which intolerance may thrive.

Brazil was an active participant in the negotiations of the draft resolution. I would now like to briefly comment on some of the issues addressed by the present draft resolution.

As a general comment, I would like to point out the fact that the draft resolution is significantly longer than the previous one (resolution 66/282). One of its merits is bringing to the fore elements of contemporary relevance to the United Nations, while reiterating the centrality of the General Assembly in fighting terrorism. An important number of new paragraphs deal with measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In that regard, the draft resolution stresses that the threat will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone.

In that regard, let us emphasize that terrorism will be defeated only when the international community and the United Nations forgo a culture of reaction for a culture of prevention that is able to take into account the structural causes of exclusion, marginalization and discrimination. As we have observed on a number of occasions, prevention is always the best policy. Such a paradigm shift should focus on an integrated approach that addresses the interdependence among peace, security and development in a comprehensive manner. By doing so, the Organization and its Member States would be capable of addressing the core conditions conducive to terrorism and would promote democratic values, international cooperation for social and economic development and political, ethnic and religious tolerance more coherently and efficiently.

The structure of the Strategy in pillars reminds us of the importance of cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building among States and the responsibility of the United Nations system to create the means for such initiatives to take place.

The Strategy also reaffirms, in unmistakable terms, that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to all components of the Strategy, while recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

In that context, we welcome an important addition to the draft resolution, namely, the inclusion of the right to privacy, which, as already emphasized by the CELAC countries, is essential to human dignity and a fundamental human right, whose protection is crucial to safeguarding individuals against the abuse of power.

The legitimate concerns about security must be addressed in a manner consistent with Members' obligations under international law and international human rights law. In the absence of respect for and protection of the right to privacy, including while countering terrorism, there can be no true freedom of opinion and expression and no effective democracy. We hope that the inclusion of the need to respect and

protect the right to privacy in the draft resolution will help to shed light on the need for States to adopt a balanced approach, through the prisms of both security and human rights and fundamental freedoms, when addressing the current challenges with regard to information and communications technologies.

Another issue touched upon by the draft resolution that merits being mentioned is the need for States to ensure that any measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft, comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law. That is an issue of the utmost importance, which, surprisingly, did not find its way into the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Strategy (A/68/841).

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism has referred to the urgent and imperative need to seek agreement among Member States on legal questions pertaining to remotely piloted aircraft operations. We reiterate that the complexities that arise from the use of new remote-controlled killing technologies and their extraterritorial deployment by a few very powerful countries in a position to do so, usually in violation of airspace sovereignty and in areas not necessarily at war, in operations tantamount to extrajudicial executions should not be underestimated.

All the above issues converge with the idea expressed by the Secretary-General that efforts to "prevent and combat terrorism will fail if the international community creates more terrorists than it defeats by its actions" (A/68/841, para. 112). Such a statement embodies the "do no harm" idea, which is central to Brazil's foreign policy.

Brazil reiterates once again that there are no excuses for terrorist acts. The repudiation of terrorism is a tenet enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution and a guiding principle of our external relations. As a country with no history of terrorist acts, Brazil has been making efforts to prevent them, including at the regional and subregional levels. We reaffirm our strong commitment to a coordinated and multidimensional response to the challenges posed by the phenomenon and once again pledge our full support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We remain convinced that the review of the implementation of the Strategy offers us an important opportunity to deepen our comprehension of terrorism in all its complexity. Let us not lose sight of the fact that our guiding principle in fighting terrorism is to save innocent lives from that scourge and to make the world a safer place.

Mr. Mashabane (South Africa): I thank the President for giving us the opportunity to participate in this debate.

The upsurge in acts of terrorism globally reaffirms that terrorism continues to be a threat not only to international peace and security but also to human rights. My delegation supports the role of the United Nations at the centre of multilateral efforts to counter terrorism. We remain firm in our belief that no country can address that challenging and complex threat on its own. We continue to align ourselves with the view that terrorism will not be and cannot be defeated by military means.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains the most credible and relevant international counter-terrorism mechanism and continues to enjoy the political support of all Member States. Its strength lies in the fact that it is the product of the collective effort of States Members of the United Nations to counter the scourge in a holistic manner.

South Africa supports the implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy in a balanced and integrated manner. A balanced approach would imply that, in addition to the steps being taken to prevent and to counter terrorism, the international community maintains its commitment to ensuring the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives to eradicate poverty and to promote sustained economic growth, as well as sustainable development and prosperity for all.

South Africa supports the adoption of the consensus draft resolution (A/68/L.50) following this fourth biennial review process. We view such a decision as one that ensures a dynamic, holistic and multifaceted approach to countering the scourge within the framework of international law.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its working groups contribute to the attainment of the objectives outlined in the Strategy. We concur with the Secretary-General's view that the true test of the value of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force will be the impact of its work on the ground. That is especially relevant to developing countries with their limited resources.

In that context, we commend the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for its efforts to enhance coordination and coherence. The comprehensive matrix of all the projects and activities being carried out by the 31 Task Force entities is a welcome contribution, which will allow resources to be allocated where they are most needed. Enhanced effectiveness will help to strengthen the institutional framework of the United Nations and will support the Secretary-General's vision of one United Nations, enabling the Organization to better assist and support Member States in the implementation of the Strategy. We also commend the CTITF for hosting the Global Experts' Meeting on Building Capacity for Terrorist Designations and Asset-Freezing.

The strengthening of the international legal architecture, the rule of law and the criminal justice system comprises the basis of our common approach to fighting terrorism. In that context, the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to all components of the Strategy, and that approach is complementary and reinforcing.

At the national level, we have put in place awareness-raising programmes to familiarize Government and civil society with the Strategy and have continued working on the implementation of the four pillars. Since the last review of the Strategy in June 2012 (see A/66/PV.118), South Africa has adopted its own national counter-terrorism strategy. Our national strategy provides a comprehensive and proportionate response to the threat of international terrorism and extremism, taking into account both local and international best practices, while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

The South African counter-terrorism strategy consists of the following five pillars, which are expressed as objectives, with each containing a set of key priorities to be addressed: first, to understand the phenomenon of international terrorism and domestic extremism; secondly, to prevent new recruits from joining terrorist groups and perpetrating terrorist attacks; thirdly, to mitigate such threats and better protect potential targets; fourthly, to pursue and investigate members of existing networks; and fifthly, to improve South Africa's capability to respond to and manage the consequences of terrorist acts.

One of the outstanding matters in the normative framework of the United Nations remains the adoption of a comprehensive convention on terrorism. In the action plan adopted in 2006, Member States undertook to make every effort to conclude that convention, which would also address gaps in the current international legal arena, while encouraging Member States to become parties to existing international conventions and protocols. South Africa believes that the adoption of the convention would enhance the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In the run-up to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy, every effort should be made by Member States to break the current deadlock.

Mr. Lopez Ibarra (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation joins the condemnation of the acts committed against the staff of the Turkish consulate in Mosul, Iraq, and we call for their immediate release. Likewise, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/68/PV.94).

Since its adoption in 2006, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has become a genuine instrument for coordinating an integrated response to the scourge of terrorism. United Nations Member States have benefited from it through new and stronger capacities and improved practices. Despite such efforts, we know there is not a single region in the world that can be said to be immune to the scourge.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed the persistent proliferation of terrorist groups and their adapation to the efforts of the international community to eliminate their operations. At the same time, we are concerned about the diversification and dissemination of those groups through the use of new technologies, including the Internet and its offshoots, which have been used to influence communities and groups susceptible to radicalization.

Mexico believes that efforts to address the underlying causes of the proliferation of terrorism must be strengthened, including the social and development factors exploited by terrorist groups in recruiting young people to advance their aims. Addressing governance gaps in generating preventive social strategies at the community level could be of direct assistance to international efforts to counter terrorism.

As a result of coordinated action among the three levels of Government, Mexico has made significant progress in addressing social and development factors that promote social equity and inclusion and discourage criminal activity. These factors include the elimination of extreme poverty, improved access to education and universal health care, and the promotion of anti-violence

actions, gender equality and sustainable development. Such efforts are integrated into the activities of a special unit for the investigation of terrorism, arms stockpiling and trafficking of the Federal Attorney-General's Office, which has established an implementation protocol to address terrorist attacks, including close cooperation with other Government actors in charge of community security, under Mexican authority.

The conjunction of security and development cannot and should not impede respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism, independently of any measures taken to that end. In that context, my country reiterates its concern over the use of remote technologies in the fight against terrorism. We support the investigation launched by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and his opinion regarding the use of drones and their impact on human rights.

Morevoer, Mexico reiterates its support and solidarity with the victims of terrorism. We support the efforts of the United Nations in launching the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal as an important step forward in creating general awareness of the direct impact of acts of terrorism on civilian populations and in promoting community resilience. We also recognize the work of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism, and in particular its catalytic role in promoting transparency and coordination in building capacity against the scourge. In particular, we emphasize the practical function of the summary matrix of counter-terrorism projects and inputs from the Task Force regarding the fight against drug-trafficking and terrorism, and we encourage those who have not yet done so to participate in that effort.

Almost 10 years after the adoption of the Global Strategy, the international community has made solid progress in the fight against terrorism. However, no effort will suffice without international cooperation, comprehensive measures to ensure accountability and compensation for the victims of the scourge, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Raja Zaib Shah (Malaysia): At the outset, I wish to join others in extending our appreciation to the President, for convening this important meeting allowing the Assembly to take stock of the progress made in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006. I wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his report (A/68/841) on the ongoing implementation of the Strategy. We are especially appreciative of the new summary matrix of counter-terrorism projects implemented by United Nations entities on countering terrorism.

I also wish to pay tribute to Mr. Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, and members of his Mission for the excellent manner in which they have facilitated consultations on draft resolution A/68/L.50 on the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I also wish to join others in expressing solidarity with the Government and people of Turkey regarding the kidnapping of Turkish diplomatic personnel in Mosul, Iraq, and in expressing our desire to see their immediate and safe release.

At this juncture, allow me to align my statement with that delivered by the Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/68/PV.94).

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is indeed a landmark document. It marked the first time the international community agreed, with one voice, on a common strategy to address and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of where, when or by whomever it is committed and whatever reasons may be behind it. The four pillars outlined in the Strategy enable us to deal with terrorism in an integrated manner. In that regard, my delegation cannot emphasize enough the importance of giving equal attention to all four of those pillars, something we have always remained committed to and that is reflected in Malaysia's multifaceted approach to combating terrorism.

Malaysia has ratified nine of the 13 international conventions and protocols and has taken various steps to meet its obligations as laid down by the General Assembly and Security Council. We are in the midst of taking the necessary legislative measures to enable us to accede to the remaining conventions and protocols. Malaysia has also continued to work on enhancing its domestic legal framework so as to ensure that we uphold the people's rights while remaining committed to safeguarding the country's security. This is evident in our application of our Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, which came into force on 31 July 2012 and replaces our Internal Security Act of 1960. This law establishes special measures for security offences, with the purpose of maintaining public order and security. It also provides for a procedural and evidential rule, pertaining to subversive offences under our penal code,

that specifically criminalizes terrorist acts. Last year, we also amended and renamed our 2001 anti-money-laundering act to include measures combating terrorism financing. The amended legislation makes comprehensive provision for freezing terrorist funds, implementing Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and increasing our implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

Regarding the area of capacity-building, in 2003 Malaysia established the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism with the sole purpose of enhancing capacity-building and expanding technical assistance at the international level. Since then, the Centre has conducted 137 capacity-building programmes attended by 2,861 local and 1,256 foreign participants. It works closely with many other countries on various aspects of counter-terrorism, as well as with international organizations such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

In our region, cooperation in combating terrorism takes place primarily within the framework of the Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Ministerial Meeting discusses the framework for cooperation and oversees implementation of activities aimed at combating terrorism, including sharing intelligence and working with external partners to counter threats. In addition, the annual ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime implements and reviews the decisions made at the Ministerial Meeting, as well as recommending new projects and exploring further areas for cooperation. The 2007 signing in Manila by all ASEAN member countries of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism has made it the primary framework for ASEAN cooperation in combating terrorism. All our member countries have ratified the Convention, which not only serves as a regional framework for counter-terrorism but also complements the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, international conventions on counter-terrorism and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Malaysia welcomes some additional elements included in this year's biennial review, including greater emphasis on pillar I of the Strategy. While we urge that equal attention be given to each of the four pillars, there is no doubt that we should increase the focus on conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure. In that regard, Malaysia continues to take various measures to eradicate hard-core poverty and ensure that our people enjoy equitable economic growth. We have also ensured that our expenditure on education continues to exceed 20 per cent of the annual national budget. Malaysia believes in the vital importance of allowing those who live under oppression their most fundamental right — the right to life and liberty accompanied by dignity and hope.

Terrorism should not be equated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Indeed, too often we have witnessed violent extremists dressing up their causes and hiding their political goals behind a mask of religion in order to make them seem more appealing and legitimate. When that happens, it is the duty of all peace-loving people, including those of the same faith that is being exploited, to discredit them. When extremists who kill innocent civilians misuse their faith in this manner, it is our duty to challenge and expose them for what they truly are — violent extremists or terrorists.

It was in that realization that Malaysia's Prime Minister, speaking in the general debate at the General Assembly's sixty-fifth session, called for a global movement of moderates (see A/65/PV.19). He repeated his call in this year's general debate for the silent majority of moderates who are appalled by extremists and terrorists' despicable acts to occupy the mainstream (see A/68/PV.18). It is a clarion call to rational, peace-loving people of all races, cultures and beliefs to raise our voices, reclaim the centre stage and drown out the talk of hate and extremism that has been voiced by a mere handful of people. It is a direction that supports the voices of reason, understanding, tolerance and respect. We believe it would contribute significantly to our common effort to defeat terrorism.

While we take a step back and examine the progress that has been made, we should also look forward to what lies ahead. In that regard, my delegation appreciates the additional aspects to counter-terrorism efforts included in the biennial review. We support, among other aspects, the language on kidnapping for ransom and the strengthened language on the importance of fighting the financing of terrorism and on terrorists' misuse of information and communications technologies.

Without a doubt, the fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has brought the international community one step closer to

achieving our noble intention of eradicating that ugly scourge. Having said that, we realize that the road ahead is long and winding. The Assembly may rest assured of Malaysia's firm commitment to the journey that would eventually see a world free from terrorism.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): I congratulate the President of the General Assembly on the successful completion of the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We thank the Mission of Turkey for its able facilitation of the review and express our profound solidarity with Turkey after the kidnapping of their nationals by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. It was an act of despicable cowardice, which has been roundly condemned by the world, including by the Security Council unanimously in its statement yesterday.

As the Secretary-General notes in his report (A/68/841), the international community's response to terrorism must remain anchored in preventative measures, respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law. Political instability, conflict and economic strife can create conditions that foment terrorist tendencies. That is why countering violent extremism and pursuing development opportunities are essential for tackling the scourge of terrorism.

The international terrorist threat is evolving. Since the most recent review of the Strategy in 2012, the threat has become both more fragmented and more diverse. The Strategy is an important element in the international response to terrorism because it demonstrates the international community's fundamental principles and clear direction. This year's review focuses on two worrying trends.

First, the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups that carry out kidnapping to finance their operations has become a predominant funding activity for many terrorist groups. We now have a vicious cycle in which ransom payments strengthen terrorist groups and incentivize future incidents of kidnapping. That cycle must be broken. The recent abduction of schoolgirls in Nigeria by Boko Haram is a tragic demonstration of the horror that powerful and well-funded terrorist groups can inflict.

Secondly, an unprecedented number of individuals are travelling to conflict zones, such as Syria, to fight alongside terrorist groups. Those individuals may pose a threat to their home countries when they return. They also pose an international threat, as they are prone to commit random terrorist attacks across the globe. The recent attack at the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels is a manifestation of that trend. In the face of that threat, our shared priority should be to dissuade individuals from travelling to areas of conflict and instead give them safe and effective channels to make positive humanitarian contributions to people directly affected by conflict.

The Syrian people have been clear that they want a political solution to the conflict and humanitarian assistance, not foreign fighters. But foreign fighters continue to head for Syria. We cannot rely on prevention alone. The international community must be ready to disrupt the flow of foreign fighters by enhancing cooperation in areas such as information sharing and border management. Disruption also needs to be backed by an appropriate criminal justice response.

The United Nations system itself and its instruments have an important role to play in tackling terrorist threats. In order to fulfil that role, the United Nations entities must improve their coordination and sharing of information. There are excellent resources to draw upon. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is a centre of analytical expertise and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is a centre of capacity-building expertise. If those two centres agree on common priorities and action plans, the United Nations system has the potential to have a real impact on and deliver support for the regions and countries most vulnerable to the threat of terrorism. In particular, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre has the potential to play a significant role in the implementation of capacity-building programmes.

United Nations entities must also continue to work with partners in the global struggle against terrorism. The Global Counterterrorism Forum is a key partner that has made significant contributions to countering violent extremism and strengthening criminal justice institutions, and it continues to work closely with the United Nations counter-terrorism bodies. The work of the Forum and other partners is important to multiply the efforts of the United Nations and mobilize resources for their implementation.

We cannot afford to file away the issue of counter-terrorism until the next review, in 2016. We must remain agile, responsive and collaborative in the face of the threat. At that point, 10 years after it was agreed upon, we should evaluate the contribution of the Strategy and use that opportunity to plan for the future.

Mr. León González (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba would like to align itself with the statement made by the representative Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (see A/68/PV.94).

We strongly support the collective efforts of the United Nations in its fight against terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a milestone in international efforts to deal with that scourge and gives the General Assembly the central role in those efforts. We would also like to thank the representative of Turkey for coordinating the process on this complex issue and thank those delegations who demonstrated the political will to make progress in the fight against this scourge.

This process is taking place at a particularly significant moment for our country. Recently, the United States Department of State published its *Country Reports on Terrorism 2013*. It repeated its arbitrary designation of Cuba as a State sponsor of terrorism for the thirty-second time. That unilateral act violates the principles of international law. It is an affront to the Cuban people and discredits the Government of the United States itself. My country vigorously rejects the manipulation of such a sensitive issue as international terrorism and its use as a policy tool against Cuba to justify the economic, commercial and financial blockade that has been imposed against us for over 50 years now.

The Government of Cuba reiterates that our national territory has never been and never will be used to welcome terrorists, regardless of their origin, nor to organize, finance or perpetrate acts of terrorism against any country in the world, including the United States. Similarly, we reject and unequivocally condemn any act of terrorism, regardless of the place or circumstances in which it takes place or the motivations behind it. Cuba is a country that, in defending its independence and unity, has suffered for decades from the consequences of terrible terrorist acts that were organized and financed by and executed from the territory of the United States and that have caused the deaths of 3,478 persons and disabled 2,099 more.

Cuba reiterates its unwavering determination to fight terrorism and our fundamental rejection and condemnation of all methods, acts and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of who committed such acts, who they were committed against and where they were committed and regardless of the motivations behind them, including those in which a State was directly or indirectly involved.

The international community must not accept that, under the banner of the supposed fight against terrorism, any State commit acts of aggression, interfere in the internal affairs of other States, commit or allow flagrant violations of human rights and humanitarian law, such as torture, kidnapping, illegal detention, disappearance or extrajudicial execution. Such double standards and unilateral acts are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles of international law. Wherever those legal and ethical principles are violated, we are laying the ground for extremist ideologies to undermine the legitimacy of our fight against international terrorism and the principles of the humanist culture that we are defending from hatred, vengeance and terror.

The Secretary-General's proposal to create the post of a counter-terrorism coordinator has been discussed. It is clear that there are doubts regarding this subject and that more information is needed before States are able to consider that question in an appropriate manner. Clearly, a decision of such magnitude can be decided only — and I repeat, only — upon by consensus and in the General Assembly.

Some matters of major importance have been included this year's draft resolution (A/68/L.50), whereas others should be included in the future. The issue of support for the rights of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations has been included. Cuba supports the efforts of the Secretariat to create the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal. In that connection, we must emphasize that States must comply with their international obligations, without resorting to double standards, to ensure that the rights of all victims are respected. That should unequivocally include the many victims of State terrorism.

States must abide by their obligations to try and extradite all terrorists without exception, including the well-known and unfortunate case of Luis Posada Cariles, a terrorist who was the mastermind of the first terrorist act against civilian air travel in the western hemisphere. That attack caused a mid-flight explosion onboard a Cubana de Aviación aircraft near the coast of Barbados, on 6 October 1976, and the death of its 73 passengers. Paradoxically, in the same country that gave refuge to that terrorist, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero, who were actually anti-terror fighters, are being kept in prolonged

and unjust imprisonment for crimes that they did not commit.

The draft resolution recognizes the efforts made by States and international organizations in the context of their differing national and regional circumstances. Nevertheless, there is no clear condemnation of all unilateral acts undertaken by certain States that, contrary to international law, have illegitimately asserted the right to certify behaviours and make politically motivated lists. We must continue to condemn those harmful practices and any act to undermine the central authority of the General Assembly in this area.

The draft resolution clearly emphasizes the need for greater dialogue and understanding between cultures and civilizations and expresses concern over the increase in kidnappings and the use of modern information and communication technologies to promote terrorist acts. The international community must focus more on the unlawful use of such technologies to promote subversive plans against countries. It is a phenomenon that has been on the rise as part of so-called soft tactics to overthrow Governments without recourse to military forces. In that respect, we should highlight the harmful practice by certain States to finance, support and promote, through the Internet, radio or television, messages of intolerance and hatred against other peoples, cultures and political systems, thereby violating the most fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

As the Assembly knows, some progress has been made during this review, but much remains to be done. We would reiterate our unswerving commitment to fight this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. Cuba stands ready to cooperate with all Member States in order to agree on concerted actions to eradicate terrorism. We support multilateral efforts directed at strengthening the central role of the General Assembly in the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): Before I begin, I would like to say that the thoughts of the Israeli people are with the abducted members of the Turkish consulate and their families. We pray for their safety and speedy release.

Allow me to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would like to thank Ambassador Çevik personally and his team for their skilful facilitation of the negotiations on the draft resolution (A/68/L.50).

Every morning, as we flip on the television or scroll through the headlines, we are overwhelmed by stories of terrorism: 49 people taken hostage in Mosul, Iraq; the gunman who opened fire at the Jewish Museum of Belgium, in Brussels; hundreds of girls kidnapped from their school in northern Nigeria; a mall overrun by militants in Nairobi; tourists targeted by a suicide bomber in Bulgaria; and the list goes on and on. When our children are not safe in their schools and our families are not safe in malls and museums, then we — all of us, as an international community — have failed. We have failed to stand up to terrorism and failed to fight the plague that threatens to overwhelm entire nations.

From the Nigerian delta to the Bay of Bangkok, nations are confronting an epidemic of terrorism that is as dangerous as the most lethal virus. Terror groups prey on unsuspecting hosts, in particular those nations already weakened by instability and intolerance. Sleeper cells spread quietly, gaining strength and waiting for an opportune time to strike. Terrorist groups are determined enemies, adapting and mutating to avoid detection. Left untreated, they attack their host from within, destroying individuals, devastating families and shattering communities.

In Iraq, militants have taken control of Fallujah and parts of Ramadi. Just this week, they overran the northern city of Tikrit and Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. Iraq is on the brink of collapse, and violence threatens to engulf the entire region. In Syria, terrorists groups have created the worst humanitarian disaster of this generation. What began as peaceful protests against an authoritarian regime has transformed into a brutal and protracted conflict that has claimed, to date, over 160,000 lives and displaced millions of people.

Fundamentalist groups are taking advantage of the bloody instability to advance their own radical strain of terrorism. Sunni and Shiite fighters have poured into Syria and are fighting Iran-backed Hizbullah guerrillas. More than 10,000 foreign terrorist fighters have joined the fighting, and some have already returned back to their homes infected by radical ideologies. Mehdi Nemmouche, who was recently arrested in connection with the Brussels museum shooting, is a veteran of the Syrian jihad. The bloody conflict in Syria is fuelled by the world's primary sponsor of terrorism, Iran. Qasem Soleimani, who oversees the Iranian Revolutionary

Guard Corps' Qods Force, is the conflict's chief genetic engineer, breeding new, virulent strains of terrorism that threaten to further aggravate sectarian tensions and inflame the region.

Since its rebirth 66 years ago, Israel has found itself under constant threat from terrorist organizations. In the south, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups rain rockets on our cities and towns. In the north, Hizbullah has amassed over 100,000 rockets and missiles capable of striking at the very heart of Israel. Israelis are also the targets of a terror campaign directed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Hizbullah. Iran's fingerprints can be seen on attacks from Bulgaria to Kenya to Thailand, where just a few weeks ago, authorities foiled a plan by Hizbullah agents to attack Israeli tourists.

Out of this persistent need to defend our citizens, Israel has become a specialist in the field of counter-terrorism, with technologies and tools unmatched by any other country. Every day, we are using our expertise to keep our citizens safe from the threats that surround us. Over the years, terrorists have become increasingly sophisticated, and Israel has been forced to evolve its counter-terrorism efforts to always stay one step ahead.

At the same time, Israel's legal system has evolved to uphold the freedoms enshrined in our declaration of independence. We have matched our commitment to respect the rule of law with our determination to combat terrorism. As the former Israeli Chief Justice, Aharon Barak, said,

> "A democracy must sometimes fight with one hand tied behind its back. Even so, the democracy has the upper hand."

In too many parts of the world, all of the elements are in place for extremism to infect the next generation of terrorism. No nation is immune, and no nation should face that epidemic alone. The prescription is very clear. We must denounce all those who spread hatred and fear. We must isolate terrorist groups by cutting off their funding and dismantling their networks, and we must strive to produce an antidote so that all of us can eradicate the virus of terrorism before it eradicates us.

Mr. Diallo (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Before exploring some specific concerns about the overall issue of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, I would like to state that Senegal aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/68/PV.94).

I would also like to congratulate the Secretary-General for his report (A/68/841) and its significant recommendations. I thank the representative of Turkey, who led the negotiations leading to draft resolution A/68/L.50 with such professionalism.

Senegal firmly condemns the kidnapping of the Turkish diplomatic personnel in Mosul, Iraq, and is concerned for their families' suffering. Senegal also condemns the kidnapping of the young schoolgirls in Nigeria.

At the 2005 World Summit, Member States solemnly expressed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its authors, site and objects, as it is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The foundations for strengthened and targeted international cooperation had thus been laid in the fight against this scourge, which had become a global threat. The need to establish a comprehensive and effective strategy to provide a common framework for efforts to fight terrorism was thus established. The review of the implementation of the Strategy's four pillars in recent years, however, had mixed results. Of the four pillars of the Strategy, the pillar on the measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism deserves special attention, as it determines the efficiency sought through synergies in counter-terrorism efforts.

As regards Africa, we must recognize that terrorism in its jihadist-Salafist form has become one of the most pernicious threats to our continent, as it attacks the underpinnings of our social structures and the foundations of our States. Avoiding the spread of terrorism through prevention involves, in those specific cases, adopting effective measures that target discrimination of all kinds, endemic corruption, political exclusion and poverty, which an element giving rise to socio-economic marginalization. Moreover, it is clear that the activities of terrorist groups in Africa also promote the development of cross-border crime, in particular in the Sahel, drug trafficking, the illicit arms trade and, sometimes, human trafficking.

In the same vein, the lack of appropriate mechanisms to monitor illicit financial flows arising from terrorist activities remains a major challenge to subregional cooperation in this field. We should also highlight the urgent need, beyond Africa, to encourage

the implementation of effective public policies to fight poverty and place this question at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Strategy that we have all adopted commits us to creating initiatives and programmes that promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions and promoting mutual respect and preventing the defamation of religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures. The approach developed by Senegal in that regard in its national efforts to implement the Strategy rests on three main areas, namely, prevention, cooperation and quick reaction.

First, on prevention, we have established an early warning and coordination system resulting from proactive work by the security forces and intelligence services. The idea is to deny terrorists the means, space and capacity to do harm. Our prevention is supplemented by the legal suppression of any act, gesture or word aimed at discrediting a religion or other belief system and by the development of a strategic and educational dialogue involving religious leaders. In that regard, in order to strengthen its legal framework for the fight against terrorism, in 2007, Senegal adopted two laws amending the criminal code and the criminal procedural code, respectively, in order to counter the phenomenon more efficiently.

The second principle is cooperation, which includes all measures and mechanisms implemented to ensure a collective, effective and timely response to the terrorist threat. In that context, Senegal ratified 13 of the 16 United Nations conventions on the fight against terrorism, that of the Organization of African States of 1999 on the prevention and the fight against terrorism and the 2004 Protocol thereto, and endorsed the various relevant decisions of West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Economic Community of West African States, including the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa 2007 framework law on anti-terrorist financing. Similarly, our country actively participates in international cooperation in criminal justice against terrorism, land, sea and air border monitoring, mutual legal assistance in money laundering and terrorist financing.

Finally, our third principle is rapid reaction, with a view to prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and to ensuring maximum protection for people and appropriate assistance for victims of terrorism. The geostrategic changes in the world and the paradigm shift related to the emergence of new conflicts with complex, multidimensional contours have led terrorist movements to change and refine their methods of action. Today we are witnessing the emergence of a new type of terrorism difficult to combat because it leverages the potential flaws in international cooperation and uses modern communication tools to expand its range of action and propaganda targets. It is therefore necessary for the United Nations, which is responsible for the coordination of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, to strengthen its means of action and encourage a constant dynamic to combat a scourge that transcends borders.

In that context, my delegation wishes to encourage the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, through its integrated technical assistance delivery initiative, to strengthen its efforts in coordinating the activities of the entities, offices and programmes undertaken to support States in their national efforts to implement comprehensive and balanced Strategy, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the international law of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reiterate Senegal's unwavering commitment to continuing to work for strengthening the Strategy as a shared response to the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Kydyrov (Kyrgyzstan): At the outset, let me thank the President of the General Assembly for convening the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to commend the tireless efforts of Ambassador Y. Halit Çevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey, who has led the review process and the preparation of the draft resolution before us (A/68/L.50).

I would like to take this opportunity to condemn the terrorist attack on the Turkish Consulate General in Mosul and the capture of its diplomatic staff and their families. We call for their immediate and safe release and the bringing of the perpetrators to justice. A terrorist attack against diplomatic missions and their officers is totally unacceptable.

Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security. Kyrgyzstan strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, wherever and by whomsoever committed. It must not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. As a global and transnational phenomenon,

terrorism can be successfully fought only through international cooperation. But despite our common efforts, it remains a persistent, evolving and long-term threat to the stability and socioeconomic development of all countries.

In that regard, Kyrgyzstan reiterates its resolute support for all measures adopted within the framework of the United Nations to combat international terrorism. Such measures must be implemented in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant international conventions. We believe that the United Nations is the one and only multilateral structure with a truly global mandate capable of consolidating international efforts in the fight against that global menace.

Kyrgyzstan firmly supports the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It provide a solid foundation for an effective and comprehensive response to international terrorism at all levels. Undoubtedly, some progress has been made since the Strategy's adoption in 2006 and its third review by the General Assembly held in 2012. But the undiminished number of incidents of terrorism serves as a constant reminder that further efforts are needed. In that regard, we support the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force aimed at ensuring overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. We also welcome the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre that has made great progress in its activities in recent months. Kyrgyzstan has established constructive interaction with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and stands ready for further cooperation.

My country continues to conduct activities designed to implement the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy, especially on addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. We clearly understand that one cannot overcome terrorism through the use of force. Coercive methods have only a temporary effect, generate negative results and thus are clearly insufficient. The hard socioeconomic situation and lack of good governance, low literacy and frail moral standards among youth, absence of rule of law and violations of human rights together with political, demographic, ethnic and environmental problems, contribute to the spread of terrorism.

In that regard, the Government of Kyrgyzstan is actively using the tools of soft power to counter conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including improving the socioeconomic situation in the country, poverty eradication, creation of jobs, the fight against corruption, reform of law enforcement and judicial systems. Special attention is paid to the improvement of the overall education of the population and close engagement with youth. All those measures are reflected in the Kyrgyz Republic's national strategy for sustainable development for the period 2013-2017.

Let me also underline that low capacity, particularly in terms of expertise and resources, constitutes the greatest challenge for many countries, including Kyrgyzstan. It is important to help Member States build and enhance their counter-terrorism capacities through various assistance programmes, as is foreseen in pillar IV of the Strategy.

Fully cognizant of the fact that national actions no matter how effective can never be sufficient, Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to cooperation with other countries and with relevant regional and international organizations. The issues of regional stability and security are of particular importance to us in the light of the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Forces from Afghanistan. Thus, Kyrgyzstan is actively engaged with the anti-terrorist structures of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. We consider it important to interact with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. With the collaboration of the Regional Centre, in December 2011 a joint action plan for implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia was adopted at the regional level for the first time. We hope that the Centre will be proactive in implementing the action plan.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Kyrgyzstan's determination to continue contributing to international efforts to counter terrorism and to implement the Strategy in a comprehensive and timely manner.

Mr. Al-Mal (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank the representative of Turkey for his work in facilitating the consultations leading to this meeting. We also condemn the kidnapping of Turkish diplomats in Mosul.

Combating terrorism is one of the international community's greatest concerns, since this dangerous

phenomenon has affected every country in the world in the past few decades, and we must therefore make every effort to counter it in every area — political, economic and security. Since the adoption in 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy under resolution 60/288, my country has implemented all of its provisions on preventing the dissemination of terrorism, aimed at strengthening States' capacities while respecting human rights as an essential pillar in the fight against terrorism.

In that regard, we have developed domestic legislation that criminalizes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as participating actively at the international level through our accession to the relevant conventions and by establishing bilateral agreements with brother countries. We have implemented all Security Council resolutions pertaining to counter-terrorism at both the international and regional level, including those concerning travel bans and weapons for all those on the consolidated lists of the Sanctions Committees.

Beyond such actions, we have also worked with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which visited Doha in January 2013, led by then-Executive Director Mike Smith. That visit led to a seminar held between 10 and 12 December 2013 on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with the participation of experts from the Executive Directorate, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and INTERPOL. The seminar produced recommendations for combating terrorism. We are currently preparing a comprehensive strategy focusing on various areas — judicial, economic, social and legal — since we are convinced that focusing on security issues alone will not enable us to combat terrorism successfully.

I should note that my country is focusing its foreign policy on eliminating armed conflicts and resolving such conflict peacefully. In 2007, we established a centre in Doha aimed at promoting religious dialogue, peaceful co-existence and tolerance of others. We have also funded a committee as part of the Alliance of Civilizations. In regard to guarantees of human rights as one of the essential pillars in countering terrorism, our country's Constitution includes many such guarantees of human rights and respects international human rights conventions and international humanitarian law.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone here for participating in this meeting, which I hope will be crowned with success.

Mr. Masood Khan (Pakistan): We condemn the kidnapping of the Turkish Consul and other diplomatic personnel in Iraq and would like to express our profound sympathy and solidarity with the people and Government of Turkey.

I will read out an abridged version of my statement, the full text of which should be available on the PaperSmart portal.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of Ambassador Halit Çevik of Turkey to facilitate and steer the consultations for the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288). The draft resolution agreed on (A/68/L.50) is the result of his efforts and of the resolve of States to reach consensus. We also pay tribute to Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for his leadership on this issue.

The delegation of Pakistan associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (see A/68/PV.94).

The scourge of terrorism continues to threaten the world. Our task in countering it is thus unfinished. The revised and updated Strategy reflects our collective determination to continue to pursue our recommendations in four key areas. We must intensify our efforts to tackle the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevent and combat terrorism, build capacities, and ensure respect for human rights while countering terrorism.

We welcome the new elements incorporated in the draft resolution, which include States' compliance, where any use of remotely piloted aircraft, commonly known as armed drones, is concerned, with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality. The new elements also include protection of the right to privacy in the context of digital communications and the challenges posed by the use of communication technology by terrorists and self-radicalized individuals or lone terrorists. We are glad that the important element of armed drones is reflected in the Strategy for the first time.

The complex challenge of terrorism defies simplified solutions and requires a comprehensive approach. A piecemeal effort will not eliminate this scourge. Similarly, a one-dimensional approach focused exclusively on operational or political measures will not produce the desired results. In Pakistan, we are pursuing a comprehensive approach. That is why we deter terrorists primarily by military means. We have also allocated resources for the development of the areas that have been hit hardest by terrorist acts. We have also pursued dialogue to stop the carnage and bring stability, after making it clear to our interlocutors that dialogue should not be seen as a sign of weakness or appeasement.

In the past 12 years, Pakistan has made huge sacrifices in blood and resources. We have lost more than 49,000 precious lives of men, women and children, which include more than 9,000 defence and security personnel. Our social and physical infrastructure has suffered colossal damages and the full potential of our economy has been stunted. Pakistan has deployed more than 158,000 troops along its border with Afghanistan. We have set up 1,707 border posts to interdict Al-Qaida and Taliban operatives. Pakistan is committed to intensifying international cooperation in the security, police, financial and other aspects of the ongoing campaign to prevent and combat terrorism. Our Government has condemned the recent drone strikes in North Waziristan, which are a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Those strikes have an adverse impact on the Government's efforts to bring peace and stability to Pakistan and the region.

We thank the Member States in this Hall and the Secretary-General for the condemnation of the dastardly terrorist attacks in Karachi and Baluchistan. The foreign hand that masterminds and guides such attacks must also be exposed in order to disrupt, degrade and dismantle the terrorist networks targeting Pakistani civilians and installations.

Terrorism has no appeal. It has been condemned and denounced by the United Nations, world parliaments and Governments and citizens of the world. There is no organization and entity that has endorsed the distorted and twisted philosophy of terrorists and their murderous acts and tactics. Killing innocent civilians is not a doctrine. It is a crime plain and simple. That is why it should not be sublimated by associating it with religion, nationality, race or ethnicity.

There is no appeal in the terrorists' narrative. First, theirs is not a monolithic or uniform terrorist narrative. Secondly, terrorists are using and inciting hatred to justify their acts. Their hallmark is that they target civilians, businesses and State institutions to create terror. In different parts of the world, they pedal different stories after committing heinous crimes.

To devalue the criminal narratives of terrorists, we should make our own narrative — the narrative of our global civilization, with its rich and diverse mosaic — the central narrative. The terrorists' narrative should be the counter-narrative; not ours. In that context, there should be no impunity for terrorist acts; the criminality of terrorist acts should be highlighted in its entire context; the theories of violent extremism in any part of the world should be debunked to deny space to the proponents and conspirators behind them; education and the media should be used as a powerful tool to banish the darkness in which terrorism and violent extremism flourish; and finally heart-rending stories of the victims and survivors should be used to expose the atrocities of the terrorists.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism. To achieve that objective, Pakistan supports a rigorous implementation of a comprehensive and coherent strategy in order to address the root causes of terrorism, including unresolved conflicts, political and economic injustices and marginalization and alienation.

Mr. Dhanapala (Sri Lanka): My delegation is pleased to take part, on this occasion, in the fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The adoption of draft resolution A/68/L.50 through a process of negotiations reaffirms Member States' commitment to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We congratulate the delegation of Turkey for successfully facilitating the negotiations of the draft resolution.

Terrorism remains a stubborn scourge that brutally preys on the innocent and leaves widespread chaos. Not a day passes without dead bodies, broken limbs and weeping relatives crowding the television screens. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Karachi, Pakistam, Iraq and elsewhere.

Sri Lanka firmly reaffirms its commitment to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Sri Lanka is a party to 13 multilateral conventions on countering

terrorism and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation instruments on mutual assistance on criminal matters. We support coordination in the United Nations system of counter-terrorism efforts, which aim to stop various aspects of terrorism, including the raising of funds, related international organized criminal activity, the propagation of terrorist ideology and the recruitment of new members. We appreciate the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate's organization of several workshops in South Asia on countering terrorism and strengthening criminal justice, which benefit police officers, judges and prosecutors.

It is also important that we reach finality in our negotiations on the comprehensive convention on terrorism. We note the discussions that have been taking place since the adoption of resolution 51/210 in 1996, and hope that they can be brought to a successful conclusion urgently.

The challenges we face as a collective action against terrorism are now more vast and diverse than ever. Terrorists operate on a non-moral, borderless platform, encompassing all aspects of modern technology, which enables them to put individual civilians in danger. In Sri Lanka, we have finally been able eradicate the threat of terrorism that loomed over our land for over 30 years. We are now progressing rapidly on our road to normalcy. Our success was not achieved easily. It was achieved with the sacrifice of thousands of lives of service personnel.

The international community must band together to institute a firm policy on fund-raising and recruitment to prevent the spread of terrorism. It is a misguided approach to nurture former terrorist sympathizers who have, for reasons of expediency, adopted a gentler appearance without denouncing violence completely. We in Sri Lanka are doing our utmost to ensure that terrorism is deprived of its ability to ever re-emerge as a credible threat to our people. Political stability is crucial within Sri Lanka and we have achieved many crucial milestones in that respect. We have also sought to share our experiences with our region and other countries through many defence seminars and bilateral exchanges.

Immense progress has been made in reconstruction, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and reconciliation. In the few short years since the end of the conflict, a survey of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2013 concluded that Sri Lanka had made remarkable leaps in assisting internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the eight themes of the UNHCR IDP solution framework. Sri Lanka has successfully resettled approximately 300,000 internally displaced people, reunited thousands of families, rebuilt towns and villages, restored roads and electricity and revived the economy of the former conflict-affected areas. The Government has also made massive investments in education and health care. The almost completed demining of farmland and village land has allowed the people in those areas to resume their livelihoods.

According to the first pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the spread of terrorism can be attributed to a great many reasons, such as socioeconomic and cultural differences, prolonged conflict, discrimination, marginalization and human rights violations. Sri Lanka has addressed, or is in the process of addressing, many of the concerns outlined in that regard. For a long time, people in areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were denied access to democracy and freedom. In the years following the conflict, several steps have been taken to reintegrate those areas into the democratic process that the rest of the country has taken for granted.

It is also crucial to address one of the main concerns pertaining to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, which is socioeconomic inequality. That is one of the biggest problems facing the world today. It is important that sections of society not feel marginalized owing to where they live or the opportunities to which they have access. The Government of Sri Lanka has been steadily promoting and investing in increasing tourism, foreign direct investment, industrial development and value added to the agricultural sector, which is a prime source of income for rural regions.

During the years of conflict, certain areas of the country were under LTTE control. Immediately following the conflict, the military had to assist the police to a certain degree with the enforcement of law and order. The military has since relinquished its role as a law enforcement body and completely handed over control to the police, local governmental bodies and civil groups. That disengagement of the military is a crucial step in the return to normalcy, for which Sri Lanka is working tirelessly. Effective governance in all areas of the country is now observed and maintained.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item for this meeting.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind members that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to 5 minutes for the second, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation will make a statement on this topic tomorrow. I am now exercising the right of reply.

The Assembly today heard the representative of a main sponsor of State terrorism, the occupying Power in the Palestinian territory, make some unacceptable false remarks addressed to my country, which were the same baseless remarks that he made two years ago in the debate on this item (see A/66/PV.119).

Indeed, we should not be surprised that the representative of a terror regime, well-known since its illegitimate inception, accuses a nation that has witnessed the loss of more than 17,000 citizens during the past 35 years. A large number of those fell victim to heinous terrorist attacks that were directly sponsored by elements of that regime. A well-known example is when Iranian nuclear scientists were brutally killed before the terrified eyes of their family members.

We do not think that there is any doubt that such a regime is responsible for aggression, occupation, killing civilians, including women and children, the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other criminal acts, as well as for turning millions of Palestinian inhabitants into refugees far from their homeland. Its network of State terrorism has carried out a long lists of deadly operations all over the world. It continues to threaten to kill more people.

It is very regrettable and ironic that in this body we should give the floor to those who are behind the most horrific terrorist attacks of our time. They indeed resonate terror and violence. In fact, they have used all kinds of terrorist techniques against the defenceless Palestinian people, targeting nationals of other sovereign nations of the region. Being accused by such a notorious regime does no harm, in fact. We consider the statement made today to be simply a tactic to divert the public's attention from the illegal and criminal activities that its terror network constantly commits. However, the international community cannot be deceived so easily.

Mr. Heumann (Israel): Allow me to address the remarks just made by the Iranian representative.

It is ironic to hear him speak of terrorism when, in fact, Iran is today the greatest State sponsor of terrorism. Iran helps terrorists to plot and carry out attacks from Bangkok to Burgas and from New Delhi to Nairobi. There have been thousands of victims of Iranian terrorism and it is no secret that the Iranian regime stands behind many of those vicious attacks.

The Iranian regime uses terrorism as yet another tool to implement its foreign policy and to destabilize the Middle East region. If Iran genuinely seeks to engage in a real discussion about counter-terrorism, it should start by looking in the mirror and by addressing the serial violations of international law that the country commits every day, rather than making baseless accusations against my country, such as we have just heard.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.